

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, AT THE DINNER GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR BY THE NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER AT ISTANA TETAMU, KUALA LUMPUR ON 20TH DECEMBER, 1973

Mr Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlement,

I should like to thank you, Mr Prime Minister, for your very gracious words and for this very pleasant and enjoyable dinner.

In your brief visit here, we have had the opportunity of talking to each other informally and exchange views frankly, which is as it should be among friends. I have been much heartened by our conversation and by your thoughtful, consistent and imaginative approach to regional and international developments. I am indeed happy to observe that there is a broad identity of views between us on the things that matter. In particular, I believe that we share in common a certain attitude to international affairs: which is, that we temper our vision of the future with an awareness of the realities of the present. New Zealand and Malaysia, I feel, do subscribe to essentially the same values in bilateral and international relations and we can therefore expect to co-operate fruitfully together. The historical connections that have brought us together in the past wane somewhat with changing circumstances but the new connections being made will, I am confident, keep us together, now and for the future.

You mention in your remarks, Mr Prime Minister, that New Zealand will seek to reorientate its perspective towards Asia and the Pacific. We welcome this development most warmly. By working together, there is much that small countries can do to influence the political and economic environment in which they live. The developments of international relations in our region which have been so dramatic in recent years make it necessary for us to shake off the rigidities and assumptions of the past and to pool together our own experience and our own resources in the pursuit of common goals. I look forward to our continuing co-operation in the years ahead.

Mr Prime Minister, I very much hope that during your stay here, you and your party have felt that you are among friends. Certainly that is how we regard and welcome you. The friendliness and goodwill which the Malaysian people have for your country and your people must have been readily evident to you during your visit to Kampong New Zealand and to my own State of Pahang. Such friendliness and goodwill come out of the simple awareness not only of the help and the co-operation you have always extended to us but above all the spirit in which such assistance has been given. This concern for the ordinary man that imbues your policy with a true humanity has won our regard and our affection.

Mr Prime Minister, thank you once again for honouring me and my colleagues in this way tonight and for the preciousness of your remarks. I look forward to seeing you again perhaps for a more extended and leisurely stay. I assure you, Mr Prime Minister, that you and your colleagues are always welcome to visit us here in Malaysia. And so it is in that spirit that I would like to end my remarks not merely by wishing you "Selamat Pulang", as we say it here, or good-bye but *au revoir* "Selamat Bertemu Lagi", until we meet again soon.

May I now invite all present to join me in drinking a toast to the good health of Mr Norman Kirk and to continued success and prosperity of New Zealand and her people.