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MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA ON HIS
44TH BIRTHDAY AT KUALA LUMPUR ON
10TH MARCH, 1966.

This is the first time my birthday is being celebrated by those outside my family circle. I am touched and grateful to all my friends and well-wishers for their kind thoughts and good wishes on my 44th birthday.

Friends joke that although I am just 44 years old I look very much older. I know they are very right but there is little I can do about it. However, I can assure all my friends that despite my appearance, I am very much still a young man. I feel young and enjoy being a man.

Through my life I have always wanted to do one thing - the most important thing of all - is to be a useful member of our community. I would like today to re-dedicated myself and my life for the service of our people and country. I shall continue to do this as long as the people want me to and as long as the Tunku has confidence in me.

During Depression, before the Second World War, while under Colonial rule I saw how our people of all races suffered. It depressed me very much as it still haunts me. And not long after that Malaysians suffered again when the Japanese occupied our country. During those awful days all races suffered.

During the short period I was in the Government Service I did all I could within my limited power to help make life more bearable and decent for our people. My greatest ambition in life now is to help create a society which will satisfy all Malaysians. Malaysia is a rich country so there is room for everybody. The future for all of us is bright if we continue to sustain and strengthen racial co-operation and harmony. I know there are enough sensible people in Malaysia who would want to make Malaysia succeed and pro-

sper. If the present balanced and sensible leadership collapses then there will be no Malaysia that is worth living and dying for.

I urge all Malaysians to work closely with one another and to be on constant guard against subversive elements which are trying to drive a wedge between the communities in this country. I know they will not succeed as long as we all remain united and would not allow ourselves to be provoked. Let us all work together in unity for the peace and prosperity of our country.

I would like to thank all my friends and supporters for their kind sentiments and congratulations on my birthday. I pray to God that with your continued support and friendship I will have the strength to continue to be of service to the people of all races in this country. This is my pledge to you on my 44th birthday.