

A LUNCHEON IN HANGZHOU  
HANGZHOU, CHINA

25 NOVEMBER 1985

Excellencies; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen.

When my visit to China was being planned back in Kuala Lumpur some months ago, it was suggested that I make it a point to visit Hangzhou since it has been long known as one of the most beautiful and scenic cities in China. Having toured the famed West Lake this morning, I must say that I am glad I came to Hangzhou.

Excellency,

2. Hangzhou's scenic beauty has, to my mind, been enhanced by the warm welcome and generous hospitality that Your Excellency and the Government and people of Hangzhou have accorded to my wife and I and members of my delegation. For this please allow me to express my appreciation and gratitude.

3. I understand that Hangzhou is not just a scenic city. It also serves as the hub of an important industrial and agricultural province of China. Zhejiang Province, I am told, ranks 8th in China in terms of foreign exchange earnings from handling exports on a provincial basis while Hangzhou is one of the country's ten major industrial cities. With this in mind, the entrepreneurs and businessmen in my delegation are therefore keen to take the opportunity of our visit here to have business discussions with their counterparts. Malaysia imports many agricultural products from China but we have long complained about the lack of direct trade. It is my hope that the business discussions that are scheduled to take place later on could result in more direct trade between Malaysia and China.

4. I also note that the policy of modernisation which your Central Government is implementing with such success also has a definite impact in this city. I have been informed that all sectors of the provincial economy are undergoing transformation and change. As the Prime Minister of a country that is itself modernising and industrialising, I sense that there are many opportunities for economic cooperation between Malaysia and Zhejiang Province. Indeed the Hangzhou Hotel stands testimony to such co-operation. Again it is my hope that the business discussions later this afternoon will explore avenues to further enhance this co-operation.

5. Before I conclude, may I once again thank Your Excellency and the Government of Zhejiang Province for the warm welcome, the lavish hospitality and for this sumptuous luncheon in our honour. May I now invite you all to join me in a toast to:

- the good health of His Excellency
- to the success of Hangzhou's and Zhejiang's economic development
- and to the further development of mutually beneficial ties between Malaysia and this Province.

Thank you.