

SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE DATO SERI DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA AT SCHLOSS CHARLOTTENBURG

WEST BERLIN, 20 SEPTEMBER 1988

His Excellency Mr. Bernhard Diepgen, Governing Mayor of Berlin; Mrs. Diepgen; Excellencies; Ladies and Gentlemen. It is indeed a great honour for me and my wife to be here tonight at Schloss Charlottenburg and to sign the Golden Book of Berlin.

As you are aware, I am on an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. I am therefore delighted to be in Berlin. I would like to express once again my sincere appreciation to the German Government and to you, Your Excellency, for the hospitality accorded to me and my delegation in Berlin.

2. I have followed with interest the developments that have taken place in Berlin since the war. After being completely devastated during the war, Berlin, with its long history, has once again become an important industrial city as well as a major centre known for its culture and higher learning. It is in fact a tribute to the German people who are known for their efficiency, diligence and far-sightedness. This great city, which recently celebrated its 750th anniversary has also become a symbol for the building of bridges between West and East. Much has been achieved towards fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Berlin and I am sure more will be done in the future.

3. It is my hope that my visit will further strengthen the cordial and friendly relations between Malaysia and Berlin, in addition to enhancing our trade and economic ties to our mutual benefit. It is also my hope that the increased awareness of Malaysia in the Federal Republic would generate greater interest in Malaysia's economic potentials amongst the industrialists and businessmen here.

Your Excellency,

4. Once again, I wish to thank you for hosting this occasion. My wife and I and my delegation look forward to our visit to this cosmopolitan city.

Thank you.