

SPEECH BY: DATO' SERI DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD
(PRIME MINISTER)

EVENT: A BANQUET IN SHANGHAI

VENUE: SHANGHAI, CHINA

DATE: 23 NOV 1985

TIME:

Excellencies;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be in this bustling metropolis which also holds the distinction of being China's largest city. I am also honoured to be entertained by you this evening. Let me therefore, on behalf of my wife and members of my delegation, thank you and the Municipal Government of Shanghai for your hospitality and warm welcome.

2. I am told that Shanghai has always been in the fore front of all aspects of Chinese life. Shanghai had been one of the first cities in China to come into contact with the outside world although those early contacts were less than equal. Nevertheless, I am sure that those long years of contacts, those long years of exposure and those long years of accumulated experience have provided the basis for Shanghai to assume the leadership in this period of modernisation.

3. Excellency, as you are no doubt aware I have brought with me a large delegation of leading Malaysian entrepreneurs and businessmen. It is my hope that with your cooperation they would be able to fully explore further opportunities for trade and economic cooperation between Shanghai and Malaysia. Bearing in mind that Shanghai is also a great port, I see a lot of prospects for strengthening shipping links between Shanghai and Malaysian ports which could contribute to the enhancement of direct tradeties between our two countries. Shanghai, as China's premier industrial city, has therefore an important role to play in Malaysia-China relations.

4. Before I conclude, may I once again thank Your Excellency and the Municipal Government of Shanghai for receiving us with warmth and generous hospitality.

5. May I now invite all those present here to join me in a toast to the Municipal Government of Shanghai and to the health of His Excellency.

Thank you.