

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

EVENT: THE OFFICIAL DINNER IN HONOUR OF HIS EXCELLENCY MOHAMMAD KHAN
JUNEJO,
PRIME MINISTER OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

VENUE: SRI PERDANA, KUALA LUMPUR

DATE: 05 NOV 1987

TIME:

Your Excellency Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo;
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Your Excellency on the occasion of your official visit to Malaysia. I recall with fond memories the generous hospitality accorded to me and my wife by the Government and people of Pakistan during our visit to your beautiful country in March 1984. Two years earlier, in 1982, we had the privilege of hosting your President, His Excellency General Zia Ul-Haq. It is therefore an honour and pleasure for me to be able to play host to Your Excellency during your three-day visit to Malaysia. As this is Your Excellency's first official visit to Malaysia, I sincerely hope that your stay here, though a brief one, will enable you to understand the varied aspects of Malaysia and meet with some of our people.

Your Excellency

2. Pakistan and Malaysia have a long history of ties and contacts. Our people share a common faith in Islam. We have many things in common and our discussions earlier this afternoon confirmed, once again, that Malaysia and Pakistan share a mutuality of interests.

3. Both our countries are already engaged in a formal and continuing dialogue through our Joint Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation. Your visit, Excellency, will no doubt provide the impetus for further discussions as well as contacts at other levels. But we welcome your visit most for the friendship it brings and for the closeness of ties between our two countries. Your visit will also strengthen our common resolve to bring progress and prosperity to our people and peace and security to our region.

4. We in Malaysia follow with keen interest the determination and urgency with which your Government is pursuing socio-economic reforms to bring development to the

people where they are needed most. We pray for your success in this endeavour. That you and your partners in SAARC are also endeavouring to adopt regional approaches to achieve the common good cannot but receive acclaim from us in this region who have long believed in and derived benefits from our own regional collaboration in ASEAN.

5. Pakistan and Malaysia can take pride in that we have put into practice the principle of self-help. Your nationals have received training in Malaysia, and ours in Pakistan, in various technical fields. Pakistani professionals have provided service in Malaysia and many young Malaysians are enrolled in institutions of learning in Pakistan. Malaysia is also appreciative of the warm gesture of friendship shown by Pakistan by the provision of places for Malaysian students in Pakistan's institutions of higher learning, particularly, the special consideration that has been given to us for additional places. Excellency, we are now left with the task of exploring new areas for technical and economic cooperation and identifying weaknesses if any.

Your Excellency

6. Malaysia and Pakistan face the same problem of inequities in international economic relations while aspiring to deliver the benefits of development at home to our people. In our endeavours we are beset with the rising threat of protectionism and the so called "solutions" reached by developed countries at our expense without due regard to our needs. In response to this international environment, we, the developing countries of the South, have in some measure responded through the formation of the South Commission. We both support the South Commission chaired by H.E. Dr. Julius Nyerere which has the task of charting a framework for cooperation among developing countries.

7. Our time is characterized by swirling changes and perennial problems. Developing countries, particularly, are confronted at both ends. The inequalities of the past, economic and political, remain largely unresolved and yet the challenges of the future in the wake of a revolution in technology place developing countries in an even more unequal and pre-carious situation. Options become limited. In this context, it is comforting that Pakistan and Malaysia are in the vanguard of efforts within the Non-Aligned Movement and other affiliations to effect common positions to overcome problems affecting developing countries. Sharing common perspectives and approaches to the issues of our time, Pakistan and Malaysia have worked together to strengthen international solidarity to find solutions to the problems of foreign occupation in Kampuchea and Afghanistan which have destabilized our respective regions, the Israeli occupation of Arab lands and their continued opposition to the creation of the state of Palestine which is an affront to the Ummah, and the inhumanity of apartheid which is an

abomination to civilized people everywhere. We share the anguish over the unending conflict between the brotherly nations of Iran and Iraq and we view with equal concern the militarization and the dangerously escalating situation in the Gulf.

8. The Soviet occupation of Afghanistan has not only posed a threat to Pakistan's security but it has also burdened Pakistan with millions of Afghan refugees escaping the ravages of occupation of their country. The international community should be appreciative of the continuing role of Pakistan in this matter.

9. We observe with a deep sense of admiration that Pakistan has been playing an active and motivating role in the O.I.C. for the cause of the Ummah. Notable amongst these are your contributions and role towards the promotion of Islamic solidarity in the economic, social and educational fields, and for the upliftment of Muslims all over the world. In this regard, I am happy to see that both our countries have been cooperating very closely and actively as an extension of our close and warm bilateral relations.

Your Excellency

10. Your stay amongst us is altogether too short. Nevertheless, we hope it will give you some impressions about the efforts we are making to bring progress to our people. And as we strive on with the task of national consolidation in a common quest to better the lot of our people, let us be mindful always about the rewards of sharing which is indeed enjoined by Islam and the strength we can derive from reciprocal assistance.

11. Let me say once again how delighted we are to have you in our midst. Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now invite you to join me in wishing for the continued good health and happiness of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to the continued prosperity and well-being of the Government and people of Pakistan and to the ever-expanding relations between Malaysia and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
Thank you.