

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

EVENT: LUNCH IN HONOUR OF HIS MAJESTY NORODOM SIHANOUK VARMAN

VENUE: CARCOSA SERI NEGARA, KUALA LUMPUR

DATE: 06 SEP 1995

TIME:

It gives me great pleasure to once again welcome
Your Majesties to Malaysia.

2. I am deeply honoured that Your Majesties are able to accept my invitation for lunch. My wife and I cherish the warm reception and the sumptuous lunch that Your Majesties hosted when I paid an official visit to Cambodia on August 14, 1994 which coincided with the Khmer New Year. This warm gesture on the part of Your Majesties, my wife and I will always hold dear to our hearts.

3. Your Majesties visit is of special significance to all Malaysians as we receive You today as King of Cambodia. In more ways than one, given Your Majesties long association with Malaysia, your visit today is reason for all Malaysians to rejoice over your re-accession to the Glorious Khmer Throne.

4. Your Majesty, having entered the world arena as leader of Your people over 50 years ago, at a time when this part of the world was a collection of colonies, Your dedication and sacrifice for Your country continues to this day, leading to the restoration of peace in Cambodia and the region as well. This would not have been possible without Your Majesty's momentous efforts and Your vision for a peaceful South East Asia.

5. On behalf of the Government and my own behalf, I would like to convey our sincere wish for Your Majesty and Government to regard Malaysia as a true friend. We are keen to collaborate with, and be of assistance to, Cambodia, not to mention, encourage members of the Malaysian private sector to play a positive role in Cambodia's reconstruction and development. The Malaysian private sector has contributed a lot towards making Malaysia what it is today. If you consider Malaysia's development a worthy model, we think the Malaysian private sector can do the same for your country.

6. Your Majesty, given the situation today whereby Southeast Asia is becoming stable and peaceful and, at the same time, experiencing active growth, we believe

that countries in the region should cooperate fully to help one another prosper. This is Malaysia's approach towards our neighbours for the simple reason that we have a stake in the stability and prosperity of all our neighbours.

7. It is our fervent hope too that Cambodia which recently has become an observer in ASEAN, will be able to become a full member in the not too distant future so that Cambodia's membership of ASEAN will help bring forward a stable, prosperous and a united Southeast Asia.