



SIARAN AKHBAR

Diterbitkan oleh Jabatan Perkhidmatan Penerangan Malaysia

semasa di

PEN. 10/86/81 (PM)

UCAPAN Y.A.B. PERDANA MENTERI

DATO SERI DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD (P)

SEMPENA SAMBUTAN ULANGTAHUN YANG KE-41

PERTUBUHAN BANGSA-BANGSA BERSATU

DI ODITORIUM BESAR ANGKASAPURI, KUALA LUMPUR

PADA HARI SABTU, 25HB. OKTOBER, 1986

PUKUL 12.00 TENGAHARI

**PERPUSTAKAAN
BERNAMA**

Saya berasa gembira kerana dapat bersama-sama di Majlis ini. Saya mengucapkan tahniah kepada Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu Malaysia atau UNMA di atas daya usahanya mengadakan sambutan ulangtahun yang ke-41 Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu. Daya usaha Persatuan ini mencerminkan keutamaan yang diberikan oleh Malaysia dan rakyatnya kepada Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu. UNMA juga telah menganjurkan satu perjumpaan yang besar sempena ulangtahun ke-40 pada tahun lepas.

2. Tahun 1986 telah diisytiharkan sebagai tahun keamanan antarabangsa. Oleh itu amatlah wajar bahawa tema tahun ini untuk Hari Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu ialah keamanan atau Peace -- sesuatu yang sangat diidami tetapi tidak begitu mudah diperolehi memandangkan keadaan dan suasana antarabangsa yang kompleks dan rumit.

3. Today we celebrate the 41st. Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. We, the small nations like Malaysia, celebrate this day still hopeful that the ideals and the promise that the United Nations Organisation symbolises would become realities. For us the UN is the only forum where the well-being of the small nations will receive some semblance of the kind of consideration that is normally reserved for the rich and the powerful.

~~The UN was~~ born out of mankind's desire to avoid the wasteful barbarism represented by the Second World War.

The League of Nations had failed and after a troubled 20 years of relative freedom from major conflicts, the world was once again plunged into an orgy of killing and destruction that spared no one, not even the civilians, women and children hundreds of miles removed from the war fronts. Many felt that had the League of Nations received the kind of big power support that it needed, war could have been avoided. At the very least, the period of freedom from war could have been prolonged.

5. And so in the closing years of the Second World War the Allied leaders decided to set up a successor to the League of Nations. Unfortunately, much as they desired to resolve international conflicts through negotiations, they were not able to put aside their suspicions of each other and their fear that they might lose control over the UN. To ensure their continued combined hegemony they gave themselves veto

powers. They also promised to contribute more towards the upkeep of the UN than the poorer nations. Whether they intended to or not, this financial contribution placed the UN under obligation to them. Still the veto and the influential contribution did not dampen the faith of the smaller nations in the UN.

6. Looking back now, no one can deny the benefits that the UN brought to a vast number of people throughout the world. Many of today's independent nations, the former colonies of the Euro-American colonial powers owe their existence to the UN's Committee on Decolonisation. It is not so much that the UN engineered the liberation of the colonial territories, as the moral pressures that it exerts. Proud and powerful powers were forced to give up what were really their sources of wealth.

7. Elsewhere much of the UN's funds and personnel were busy helping refugees, improving food production, introducing modern methods of caring for the sick and improving health, upgrading education, preserving cultures and generally making themselves useful to the myriads of unfortunate poverty-stricken people throughout this inequitable world.

8. For all these activities money was needed; large sums of money. There may have been wasteful spending. There may have been some who administer the UN who had abused the positions they held in order to live a good life or to

practice nepotism. But there can be no denial that the UN agencies have contributed much towards improving the quality of life among the poor nations and peoples of the world.

9. But now the UN is being threatened by cuts in contributions towards its upkeep and activities. The reasons may be valid but if there has to be cuts it must not be at the expense of the poor countries which need the help of the UN. What the UN is doing is niggardly enough. There is a vast amount of work and aid that the poor countries need which the UN can never meet. If even the minimal aid of the UN is cut off, then all these poor countries will have to sell their souls to the highest bidder, the powerful countries which would like to gain economic and political advantage through new forms of colonialism.

10. The essence of the UN is multilateralism. The belief is that if aid comes from the UN then one is obligated to all its members rather than any single country. Thus aid cannot be made an instrument to influence the client states. The sense of freedom, indeed the independence of the aid-receiving countries could then be maintained. There will be no alignment and the country, however poor, can comment and act freely on matters affecting the rest of the world. In other words equitability between countries, big or small, rich or poor will be possible, at least in the United Nations fora. This is the meaning of multilateralism.

11. Unfortunately some countries, having paid the piper more, demands the right to call the tune. This is what the majority of UN members are resisting. The veto is enough. There should be no other leverage.

12. Democracy has been touted as the greatest political system ever invented. If it is true that the advocates of democracy, the people who are ever ready to chastise Governments and countries should they deviate ever so slightly from their interpretation of democracy; if these democratic champions really believe in democracy, then they should accept the will of the majority.

13. For a time when the UN was a docile club whose members recognise the authority of the more equal among them, democracy in the UN was welcome. But as the newly independent nations fill the assembly and are able to ignore that there are others more equal than them, democracy suddenly became sour to the very people who propagate and insist on democracy. They now feel that democracy is not a perfect system after all. They now talk of the irresponsible majority, of automatic majorities, etc.

14. We in Malaysia have long known that democracy, like all systems invented by Man, is imperfect. Only God is Perfect. We are willing to admit that in the UN there have been instances when the majority of the members have been less than responsible. We are willing to accept criticism over

the unprincipled exercise of voting rights over some international issues. But if we believe in democracy then we have to accept its imperfections and allow for the members to learn to appreciate the need for responsibility in the use of their rights. We cannot force them into submission by threats to emasculate the UN financially.

15. The superpowers may feel that the United Nations is superfluous, that it has outlived its usefulness, that it is unable to do much for world peace. They may feel that they can settle problems bilaterally. And they may be partially right. Still it would be presumptuous of anyone to think that it is they and they alone who have kept the Third and final World War at bay. The UN may not be able to prevent a World War. Indeed, it seems incapable of preventing even a small war. But nevertheless because the actions and policies of the superpowers are subject to scrutiny by all the members of the UN, the need arises to explain and to modify stands in order not to offend everyone. And so the UN does have a role even when the superpowers apparently ignore it.

16. That the UN has not been able to stop some wars is obvious. After all the UN is not an international police force able to enforce its decisions. The UN's effectiveness depends on the commitment of its members to the Charter of the United Nations. If a country decides to ignore its commitment there really is nothing that the UN can do. It

is therefore not the UN which is at fault. It is the members.

17. On the other hand the UN has succeeded in preventing a number of conflicts or to limit them. But because when the UN succeeds the problem no longer stares us in the face, we are apt to forget the role of the UN. On the other hand when the UN fails, the problem continues and constantly reminds us of the failure of the UN. The Palestinian problem, the military occupation of Kampuchea, Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq War, the Central American conflicts, etc. all remind us of the failures of the UN. But do we ask ourselves how many little countries would have been swallowed up by now by predatory neighbours and others if the UN is not there? Malaysia during the confrontation owed a lot to the UN. We, at least, should not forget that.

18. This year has been designated the International Peace Year. Cynics will probably laugh at this unattainable objective. How can we talk of peace when there are wars everywhere? How can we talk of peace when nations spend trillions of dollars on ever more sophisticated weapons? How can we talk of peace when millions die of hunger and starvation because our money is being used to prepare for total world destruction?

19. But there is a need to remind ourselves of peace. Normal people become callous and uncaring if they are

exposed only to the cruelties and destruction of war. The horrors of Nazi rule was accepted by decent Germans because they happen every day and that was the only thing they were familiar with. It is only now that the enormity of Nazi practices is understood by the German people. The reason is that the people were conditioned to the horrors and did not expect a different state of affairs. People become immune when exposed to anything for a long enough period of time.

20. Similarly if the world knows only war and have forgotten what peace is all about, we are going to become callous and uncaring. It is, therefore, important to keep reminding us of what peace is like and what goodness it brings. This dedication to peace which has been designated by the UN as the theme for 1986 should, at the very least, remind us of the goodness of peace and the horror as well as the dehumanising effect of war. We would then be more humane and tolerant and would seek to preserve peace because we know what it means and we value it. If this year of international peace achieves this much, it would have done much for humanity despite the 43 wars that plagues the earth at this very moment.

21. Malaysia supports the UN unstintingly. We are appreciative of what the UN stands for and the services it has rendered to mankind. Imperfect though it may be, it is still better than a world without the UN. We do not want the world to be divided into camps which are not able to

communicate with each other because there is nowhere where we can meet and negotiate. Malaysia does not wish to be a member of any camp or bloc. We are aligned with no one. We are not even aligned with the Non-aligned. We will criticise and condemn the Non-aligned Movement or any of its members or groups as much as we would criticise the countries of the Eastern or Western blocs.

22. We know that our stand pleases no one. We know that our unbiased criticisms have gained for us much dislike. We know that some have tried to make things difficult for us. But we will carry on with this policy. We bear ill-will to no one -- not even those who have overtly or covertly tried to undermine our stability and our economy. Our faith in the interdependence of nations remains and with it our support for the symbol of that interdependence -- the United Nations.

23. That Malaysians subscribe to this stand by the Government can be seen by the interest and support for the United Nations Malaysia Association. True, for a time interest waned but now it has revived and Malaysians will always be reminded of the UN and to believe in its efficacy as an agency for the betterment of people throughout the world and as a moral force against injustice and oppression. The UN will also help in preventing the slide towards the final world war, the war that will end all wars for there will be no one and nothing left to fight.

24. Malaysia akan terus berusaha dalam membantu mencapai cita-cita dan aspirasi Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu. Walaupun Malaysia merupakan sebuah negara yang kecil, kita akan terus memainkan peranan positif di arena dan forum Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu dengan menyuarakan pendapat dan pandangan kita dengan tegas dan berani demi keamanan dan kesejahteraan dunia.

KUALA LUMPUR,

25hb. Oktober, 1986 (dikeluarkan pada pukul 2.45 petang)
