

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON MAS-AEU DISPUTE OVER RADIO TELEVISION MALAYSIA, ON 15TH FEBRUARY, 1979.

The Government has already made clear that it cannot and will not compromise on its firm stand with regard to the illegal actions which have been taken by the Airline Employees Union in its dispute with MAS. The actions which have been taken by the Government are for the purpose of creating conditions which will enable the parties to the dispute to resume negotiation. The illegal actions of the AEU have already caused damage to the economy and image of the country, they have also caused inconveniences and hardships to the people. Further, MAS aircrafts have been tempered with without the slightest regard and consideration for the safety of the passengers. This is inexcusable.

Attempts are being made to pressure the Government to bow the AEU in its illegal and irresponsible acts. Now a foreign organisation has involved itself to pressure the Government. This organisation ——— the International Transport Workers Federation ——— through Mr. Donald Uren its Asian Representative, and Mr. Johann Hoff, its Assistant General Secretary have been inciting the members of the AEU to continue with its illegal actions. Mr. Johann Hoff has been allowed to enter this country on a two weeks social pass for the purpose of leisure. He has involved himself in the AEU — MAS dispute and has interfered in the internal affairs of this country.

The Government wish it to be clearly understood that it will not tolerate any interference from any foreign organisation in the internal affairs of this country, as it will not countenance any foreign government to interfere in the internal affairs of Malaysia.

The Malaysian Government will not tolerate its laws to be infringed and warn the International Transport Workers Federation and its representatives to cease forthwith from interfering in the internal affairs of this country. The Malaysian Government will retaliate fully any international actions by the ITWF which affects the economy, well-being and image of this country.

The situation arising out of the illegal actions of the AEU is already bad enough. Other trade unions for whatever reasons should not exploit or take any action which will worsen it further. Any attempt by any other trade unions to do so will be met with a firm stand and action by

the Government. The Government will not hesitate to carry out its responsibility to the country and the people.

I appeal to the good sense of the people particularly members of trade unions to cooperate with the Government. This appeal should not, however, be taken as a sign of weakness on the part of the Government.