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SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER AT THE DINNER GIVEN IN HONOUR OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ZENKO SUZUKI, THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN, AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, KUALA LUMPUR ON 15TH JANUARY, 1981.

Your Excellency, Mr. Zenko Suzuki, Prime Minister of Japan, Mrs. Suzuki, Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia, I would like to welcome you Mr. Prime Minister and your charming wife to this country. I would also like to welcome His Excellency, Mr. Masayoshi Ito, the Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr. Takao Kameoka the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the other distinguished members of the delegation.

Mr Prime Minister,

Your visit to Malaysia and the other countries of ASEAN, not long after you assume office, is very significant to us. It indicates the importance you attach to the relations with ASEAN and its individual members. Malaysia is greatly honoured by your visit. It has always been the desire of my Government to strengthen further the already close and cordial relations between our two countries. Your visit fulfils that desire.

This afternoon, we had a very useful discussion. Among the matters I mentioned was that we would soon be launching the Fourth Malaysian Plan. The Plan will bring us into the second half of the twenty year perspective plan under our New Economic Policy.

Our development record has been quite good. We have been fortunate in being able to maintain a relatively high economic

growth. This has enabled us to pursue our socio-economic development objectives of eradicating poverty and restructuring society. We will have to strive harder, to ensure that the momentum of our development, will be maintained and that the targets set under the New Economic Policy are achieved.

Japan has assisted us a great deal in our development. The Yen Credit which has been extended to us since the First Malaysia Plan, has helped us in meeting the capital requirements for some of the major development projects. Various forms of Japanese technical assistance, have also been invaluable to us. I am confident that Japan will continue to assist us. Your Excellency's promise of a further Yen Credit for our Fourth Malaysia Plan, is greatly appreciated by us.

Malaysia is fortunate to be endowed with many natural resources. We want to exploit and develop these resources, to generate a higher growth of our economy. Japan, as an advanced industrial country, which depends on the inputs from countries such as ours, and on overseas markets, will certainly benefit from our growth.

Japan is Malaysia's largest trading partner. It takes about 21 percent of Malaysia's total exports. Our exports to Japan have largely been raw materials. Of our total imports, Japan accounts for about 23 percent.

The relations between Japan and Malaysia can be further strengthened by instituting a new pattern of cooperation. There should be more Japanese participation in a variety of manufacturing activities in Malaysia to provide the parent industries in Japan with processed and semi-processed goods. In this way, Malaysia could further utilise its raw materials, labour and available energy, and at the same time benefit the Japanese industries.

I am happy to know that Japan shows a keen interest in our agricultural development efforts. Being an agricultural country, it is our policy to enhance and broaden the productive base of this

important sector of our economy. Our development, offers numerous opportunities for investments, particularly in the agro-based industries. We would, therefore, welcome Japan's participation in the development of this sector.

An area which is of great importance to all our development efforts, is access to appropriate technology. Japan's proposal on human resources development is, therefore, most welcome.

Mr. Prime Minister.

Malaysia is deeply concerned with the political developments in some parts of the world. International peace, security and stability have been affected by unrestrained use of power politics and military force by some members of the international community.

The situation in Kampuchea affects the peace and stability in this region. We appreciate that Japan shares our concern in this matter. We hope that Japan would take an active part in helping to find an early solution to the problem.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I sit down, may I request you all to rise, and join me in a toast to the continued good health of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Japan and Mrs. Suzuki.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I invite you to rise, and join me in a toast, to His Majesty the Emperor, the Government and the people of Japan.



YAB Dato' Hussein Onn dan Perdana Menteri Jepun, En. Zenko Suzuki di Majlis Makan Malam yang diberikan oleh Dato' Hussein Onn di Bangunan Parlimen, Kuala Lumpur, pada 15hb Januari, 1981.