

**By : DATUK SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR**  
**Venue : MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR**  
**Date : 21 MAY 1999**  
**Title : JOINT RECEPTION ON THE OCCASION OF THE 25TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
OF CHINA**

HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR GUAN DENGMIN, G,  
YANG AMAT BAHAGIA TUN HAJJAH RAHAH BT. TAN SRI MOHD. NOAH

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR FOR ME TO BE HERE THIS EVENING, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA, TO JOINTLY HOST THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

I THANK AMBASSADOR DENGMIN AND MEMBERS OF HIS MISSION FOR THE CLOSE COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT IN ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF THE RECEPTION.

MAY I ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, IN PARTICULAR, YANG AMAT BERBAHAGIA TUN HAJJAH RAHAH, FOR HONOURING US WITH YOUR PRESENCE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THIS IS INDEED A HISTORIC EVENT FOR BOTH MALAYSIA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. IT WAS 25 YEARS AGO THAT THE LATE TUN ABDUL RAZAK, THE SECOND PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA, UNDERTOOK THE HISTORIC JOURNEY TO CHINA TO CROSS, AS IT WERE, IN HIS OWN WORDS, "THE BARRIERS OF MIND AND SPIRIT", TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MALAYSIA'S DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THE MONTH OF MAY, 1974 INDEED MARKED A HISTORICAL BEGINNING WHEN THE SEEDS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST WERE SOWN FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

TODAY, MALAYSIA AND CHINA CAN TRULY TAKE PRIDE IN THE MANY FRUITS OF THEIR COMMON LABOUR. MANY HIGH-LEVEL VISITS TO CHINA HAVE FOLLOWED THE PATH TAKEN BY THE LATE TUN. CHINA TOO, HAS RECIPROCATED IN A SIMILAR MANNER. A STRONG FOUNDATION WAS LAID TO DEVELOP BILATERAL RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF OUR COMMON ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF MUTUAL RESPECT, EQUALITY, GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE.

SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN WIDENING THE AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE RELAXATION OF ENTRY REQUIREMENTS BY BOTH SIDES HAS ALLOWED FOR GREATER PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS AND INTERACTIONS FOR BOTH SOCIAL AND BUSINESS PURPOSES. CLOSE COLLABORATION ALSO EXIST AT THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS ON VARIOUS ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN. MALAYSIA LOOKS FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE TO THE FURTHER ENHANCEMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CHINA IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

GIVEN THE POTENTIALS THAT EXIST, MUCH MORE CAN CERTAINLY BE DONE. AS WE MOVE INTO THE NEXT MILLENIUM, MALAYSIA IS COMMITTED TO UNDERTAKING A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO PUT IN PLACE A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK THAT WOULD ENCOMPASS ALL AREAS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION OF INTEREST TO BOTH COUNTRIES. THE SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF SUCH A FRAMEWORK WOULD CERTAINLY MARK AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN OUR RELATIONS AS WE CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY.

MALAYSIA VIEWS CHINA AS AN EMERGING ECONOMIC PLAYER AND AS A POTENTIAL LUCRATIVE MARKET FOR OUR PRODUCTS AS A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, WE ALSO RECOGNISE THE PIVOTAL ROLE THAT CHINA IS PLAYING IN PROMOTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION AND THE WORLD AT LARGE. WE HOPE THAT CHINA WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE ROLE AND WILL BE SENSITIVE TO THE ECONOMIC AND SECURITY NEEDS OF THE REGION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

AMBASSADOR DENGMIN, IN HIS SPEECH HAS REMINDED US OF THE OLD CHINESE SAYING THAT "WHEN DRINKING WATER, DO NOT FORGET THE PERSON WHO DIG THE WELL." WE CERTAINLY SHARE THESE WORDS OF WISDOM. AND IT IS ALSO FOR THAT REASON THAT WE ARE GATHERED HERE THIS EVENING TO HONOUR AND PAY TRIBUTE TO THE LATE TUN ABDUL RAZAK, WHOSE VISION AND GREAT FORESIGHT HAD LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT WAS THE LATE TUN WHO HAD STRESSED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LAYING "STONE BY STONE, THE FOUNDATION OF ENDURING AND FRUITFUL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES." IT IS THEREFORE MOST FITTING AND TIMELY THAT WE HONOUR THE ILLUSTRIOUS TUN, BY PRESENTING A JOINT CITATION ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF MALAYSIA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. I AM GLAD THAT YANG AMAT BERBAHAGIA TUN HAJJAH RAHAH IS GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO ACCEPT OUR INVITATION TO ATTEND THIS RECEPTION AND TO RECEIVE THE CITATION ON BEHALF OF THE LATE TUN.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WITH THESE WORDS, MAY I NOW INVITE YOU TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST:

- TO THE ENDURING FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
- TO THE CONTINUED PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND ITS PEOPLE; AND
- TO THE GOOD HEALTH OF AMBASSADOR DENGMING AND ALL THOSE PRESENT HERE THIS EVENING.

THANK YOU