

By : DATUK SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR
Venue : [s.l]
Date : 2 JULY 2002
Title : CONJUNCTION WITH THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE PACKAGE OF ISSUES BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE

THE HONOURABLE PROF. JAYAKUMAR
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES FROM SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WE HAVE COME TO THE END OF THE FIRST MINISTERIAL MEETING BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE ON THE PACKAGE OF ISSUES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANDATE GIVEN BY OUR PRIME MINISTER.

2. MAY I ONCE AGAIN EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR YOUR PRESENCE AT THIS MEETING.

3. I AM GLAD THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE TO PRESENT OUR VIEWS AND PROPOSALS AT OUR MEETING YESTERDAY, WITH REGARD TO THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES BOTH AT THE LEVEL OF MINISTERS AS WELL AS SENIOR OFFICIALS.

4. THE DISCUSSIONS HELD HAVE PROVIDED US WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHERS POSITION. HOWEVER, MANY AREAS REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED.

5. MALAYSIA IS PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT TO SINGAPORE A REVISED PACKAGE IN RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION MADE BY SINGAPORE YESTERDAY.

6. THE REVISED PACKAGE REPRESENTS A REASONABLE PROPOSAL WHICH WE HOPE WOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS ATTENTION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE. AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE PROPOSAL, MALAYSIA IS PREPARED TO CONCLUDE A NEW AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF 100 YEARS ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS TO BE AGREED UPON INCLUDING PRICING FORMULA SUBJECT TO THE SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE PACKAGE OF ISSUES I.E. RAILWAY, RELATED ISSUES AND CUSTOM, IMMIGRATION AND QUARANTINE (CIQ), CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND (CPF) AND AIRSPACE.

7. MALAYSIA HAS TAKEN NOTE OF SINGAPORE'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE REVISION OF THE PRICE OF WATER IN RESPECT OF THE 1961 AND 1962 WATER AGREEMENTS AND WILL PURSUE SEPARATELY THIS ISSUE CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE TWO AGREEMENTS.

8. MALAYSIA WILL ALSO UNDERTAKE SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED BRIDGE SINCE THIS ISSUE IS NOT PART OF THE ORIGINAL PACKAGE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

9. MALAYSIA BELIEVES THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ARE REQUIRED ON THE PACKAGE OF ISSUES AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THIS MEETING. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE TO NARROW THE DIFFERENCES THAT STILL EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON ALL THE ISSUES BEFORE US. MALAYSIA IS HAPPY HOWEVER THAT THE TWO SIDES REMAIN COMMITTED TO REACHING AN AMICABLE SOLUTION THROUGH FURTHER ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

10. IN THIS REGARD MALAYSIA LOOKS FORWARD TO HAVING THE SECOND MINISTERIAL MEETING IN SINGAPORE IN AUGUST 2002.

11. THANK YOU AND WISHING YOU, ALL THE VERY BEST AND A SAFE JOURNEY BACK HOME.