

By : DATUK SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR
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Title : SPEECH DURING THE BOOK LAUNCHING CEREMONY

YBhg. Dato' Dr. Mohd. Yusof Ahmad,
Director General of IDFR.

YBhg. Dato' Siddiq Firdause Mohd Ali,
Deputy-Secretary General III,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, let me take this opportunity to thank YBhg. Dato' Dr. Mohd. Yusof Ahmad, Director General of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) and the staff of the Institute for inviting me to officiate this book launching ceremony this morning. This is also my first visit to IDFR since the Institute's placement under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Wisma Putra in April this year. Prior to that, the Institute was a unit under the Prime Minister's Department since its establishment in July 1991.

2. I am also happy to be here this morning since the subject matter of the Institute's three publications, namely the 'Istilah Diplomasi dan Hubungan Antara Bangsa Volume II (Jilid II)'; Practice of Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges and the compilation of statements made by leaders of delegations during the Special Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministries on Terrorism held in Kuala Lumpur in April 2004, are not only relevant to the programme and activities undertaken by the Institute but also pertinent to Wisma Putra's role in planning, managing and implementing Malaysia's foreign policy. Allow me to congratulate IDFR in particular its Research and Publication unit for its invaluable efforts to publish these publications.

Distinguished guests/Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. The world of diplomacy has witnessed dramatic changes in recent times. It is therefore pertinent for scholars and practitioners to re-look at old concepts, current practices and usage of new words which have eventually become incorporated and accepted into the language of diplomacy. For instance, even as we speak, the use of new terms like "collateral damage", "preemptive defence" and "shock and awe" would require the revision of current diplomatic lexicon to ensure its continued relevance to students and practitioners of diplomacy, at both the national and international levels. In the West, where publication processes are more established and organized, such efforts have become common practice. Unfortunately, in Malaysia, though we have a rich culture in terms of arts and literature, we would find

difficulty when browsing for our own publications. We would find it easier to find publications about our history written by Western scholars. Most of the time important documents of the past could only be found in libraries in Europe. This is also true with regard to publication on diplomacy.

4. The dearth of publications on the subject, particularly those written by Malaysian scholars and practitioners is indeed glaring. A quick run through the library catalogue, for instance, would reveal no more than a dozen monographs written by local writers on the subject. Apart from a handful of memoirs penned by former Malaysian diplomats and academics, local publications in English on the subject of Malaysia's diplomacy and international relations are indeed few. The picture is much worse if one scans the landscape for literature on the same subject in Bahasa Malaysia. To have such a revised and constantly updated publication, as events unfold, whether in English or Bahasa Malaysia, for the benefit of the Malaysian audience, would indeed be a challenge.

5. IDFR's book on 'Istilah Diplomasi dan Hubungan Antarabangsa' Volume II (Jilid II), forms an integral part of the Government's continuing effort to translate common English terminologies, used in the discipline and practice of international relations and diplomacy, into Bahasa Malaysia for the benefit of the non-English speaking readers and practitioners. For those of you who are interested to purchase the book, Volume II will be available in book stores at the modest price of 12 ringgit. The first volume of the same book, the 'Istilah Diplomasi dan Hubungan Luar Negeri, Jilid 1', was launched by our Y.A.B. Perdana Menteri, then our Y.B. Menteri Luar Negeri, in May 1998. In that volume, a total of 2096 English terminologies in diplomacy were translated into Bahasa Malaysia to reflect the ever-changing dynamics of international relations, foreign policy and diplomacy in the early nineties.

6. Contemporary phenomena such as globalization, international terrorism, the establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), efforts aimed at reengineering the United Nations system, the ascendancy of economics and public diplomacy and the rise of new emerging powers such as China, India etc have resulted in the proliferation of new words, which also require translation into Bahasa Malaysia. Given this need, Volume II of this publication, has succeeded in incorporating a total of 1671 additional new words, which have also been translated into Bahasa Malaysia. Aside from the additional terminologies, Volume II also contains a new section on International Organisations, which have remained an integral part of international diplomacy. I have no doubt that the two volumes would be invaluable tools for students and officials, in understanding the increasingly complex and dynamism of modern day diplomacy.

7. The leading role undertaken by IDFR to produce an updated translated version of English diplomatic terms into Bahasa Malaysia is indeed commendable. I hope the publication of Volume II of "Istilah Diplomasi dan Hubungan Luar Negeri" by IDFR, with the cooperation of DBP and others, would further encourage DBP and other institutions of higher learning to redress the existing lacuna of literatures in fields and disciplines considered critical to Malaysia's continued competitiveness internationally.

8. The second book entitled the 'Practice of Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges' by Y.M. Tunku Intan Mainura Tunku Makmar Nizamuddin of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) is a pioneering work written by a Malaysian scholar and published in Malaysia. This book, in my opinion, would serve two purposes, namely assisting Malaysian diplomats abroad to better understand their duties and responsibilities in promoting Malaysia's interest overseas and protecting the interest and welfare of Malaysians living abroad. The book, it is hoped, will also contribute positively towards a better understanding by Malaysians of the role and function of their diplomats abroad as well as that of foreign diplomats representing their countries in Malaysia. I must congratulate IDFR in particular Tunku Intan Mainura for her efforts.

9. The third publication is a compilation of statements made during the Special Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on Terrorism in April 2002. It is hoped that the book would inform, educate and enhance the awareness of the readers regarding the threat posed by terrorism to the maintenance of international peace and stability. The publication is also part of Malaysia's positive contribution towards efforts to dispel some common misconceptions, especially in the West, about terrorism being uniquely an Islamic phenomenon. I have no doubt that the publication will also serve to further highlight, Malaysia's known position in finding a permanent solution to the menace of terrorism by addressing its root causes.

Distinguished guests/Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. The importance of adequate resource materials for training purposes cannot be overemphasized. In the effort to produce better equipped diplomats and professionals, training institutions such as IDFR must ensure adequate supply of materials for reading and research purposes by its participants. In this respect, I am pleased to note that since the establishment of the research and publication wing of the Institute, action has been taken to redress this shortcoming through the publications of journals, occasional papers, monographs and reports. In this regard, I am also happy to note that aside from the three publications to be launched this morning, work on a few other publications have already begun as part of the Institute's continuing effort to enhance its training, research and publication activities.

11. In conclusion, let me once again congratulate and thank IDFR for taking the lead in the publication of the three books. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all the other agencies such as Dewan Bahasa and Pustaka, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Malaya, the Government Printers, and all members of the Jawatankuasa Istilah Diplomasi dan Hubungan Antarabangsa (JIIDHA) for their commitment, hard work and constant support in making the publications of these books possible.

With these few words, I would now like to declare open, the IDFR Book Launching Ceremony 2004.

Thank you.