

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER COMMENTING
ON WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "IRRESPONSIBLE
STORIES" PUBLISHED BY CERTAIN NEWS
ORGANISATIONS IN INDONESIA ON
11 JANUARY, 1959

I have never spoken at any time with any so-called Indonesian rebel leader, nor have I any plan in my head to set up a Malaysian Islamic State in Southeast Asia.

If there are members of other parties who have made, or are making, contacts with Indonesian rebels they have done so, or are doing so, without the knowledge or the consent of this Government.

These reports are mischievous and can be calculated to cause distrust and ill-feeling between Indonesia and Malaya. In my opinion these reports are being made by the communists with the obvious intention of obstructing any move to improve the good relationships and the economic stability of Southeast Asia.

The Southeast Asian economic co-operation, of which I spoke in Manila, might well lose for the communists their attempted domination of our region.

The democratic countries can see for themselves in the putting out of these reports the attempts now being made by the communists to nip in the bud any move to counter communist economic domination.

I see all the more reason now for me to go ahead with my plan and to bring, as far as I can, all the countries of Southeast Asia into it.

I have discussed these reports with our Ambassador to Indonesia, Encik Senu bin Abdul Rahman, who is in Kuala Lumpur now for consultations and is returning to Jakarta tomorrow. I have expressed to him my grave concern over these irresponsible stories which of recent time have appeared in some newspapers in Indonesia.