

S E C R E T

R E P O R T

of the

MALAYSIAN GOODWILL MISSION

TO CERTAIN STATES IN ASIA

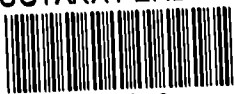
AND EAST AFRICA, LED BY THE

HON'BLE THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

FROM 18th MARCH TO 15TH APRIL, 1965.

S E C R E T

PUSTAKA PERDANA



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PERDANA
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The Afro-Asian group is numerically the largest within the United Nations. With each member state possessing one vote, countries so small that their population barely exceeds half a million, have an equal voice in most respects with giants like India, the Soviet Union and the United States. The Afro-Asian lobby is a powerful one and is growing yet more powerful. It constitutes an interest-group which the remaining colonial powers cannot disregard. In fact, without a world forum like the United Nations the struggle against such burning issues as apartheid

REPORT OF THE MALAYSIAN GOODWILL MISSION TO
CERTAIN STATES IN ASIA AND EAST AFRICA,
LED BY THE HON'BLE THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
FROM 18TH MARCH TO 15TH APRIL, 1965.

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Introduction

Government decided that the Deputy Prime Minister should lead another Goodwill Mission from Malaysia to a number of countries in Africa as a follow-up of the Mission he led to countries in North Africa in November and December of 1964. Accordingly the Deputy Prime Minister visited a number of countries in Asia and East Africa in the months of March and April of 1965. The final itinerary as followed by the Mission is attached at Appendix "A" and the composition of the Mission at Appendix "F"

The paragraphs that follow record the salient points of discussion between the Deputy Prime Minister and the leaders of this part of Africa and Asia, whom he met during the tour.

Bangkok (Thailand - 18th March, 1965)

The Delegation left Kuala Lumpur in the morning of March 18th, 1965 on a Malaysian Airways Kris Flight for Bangkok arriving there at about 12 noon. On arrival at Bangkok, we were whisked away from the airport by Air Chief Marshal Dawee. We were entertained to lunch by him and later brought to Pitsunalohe House (a government guest house) for some rest before catching the next flight to New Delhi.

The first task for the Deputy Prime Minister was to explain to the Thai Foreign Minister Malaysia's views why the proposed talks which were to have taken place between the Indonesians and ourselves at the request of the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Dr. Subandrio, had not materialised. For this purpose Tun Thanat Khoman arranged to pay a courtesy call on the Deputy Prime Minister at Pitsunalohe House.

During the meeting Thanat Khoman expressed his own views why the talks did not take place. He began by saying that Malaysia should not have given the Indonesians any pretext to call off the talks at all. To this Tun Razak responded that from all available information we believed that the Indonesians did not really want to talk at all because of pressure from the Communists, and therefore we were entitled on receipt of their reply to announce that the proposed talks had been called off. Tun Thanat Khoman said that he was discussing this only as a postmortem. All that had happened was past history. He was fully aware of the pressures on Sukarno by all sides but he felt that the whole question must be looked at from a wider perspective especially in the light of United States determination to defend South Vietnam. In this context he thought there was a change in the complexion of Indonesian confrontation against Malaysia.

Tun Razak reiterated his views by saying that we had reason to believe all along that both Subandrio and the PKI did not really wish the talks to succeed through the efforts of Bangkok. Tun Razak told him that during his earlier visits to Tokyo and Karachi, Subandrio had definitely requested the two Governments to lend a hand at mediation efforts and that without Sukarno's knowledge had approached Tun Thanat later. Tun Thanat Khoman did not accept this position fully. He said the whole question was not all that simple. Sukarno knew everything that was happening in respect of the Japanese, the Pakistani and the Thai efforts. Anyhow the purpose of his meeting with Tun was that he wanted to make clear his views.

In his efforts to bring Indonesia and Malaysia together he had not wished to obtain any credit for Thailand or for himself. His sole objective was to get the two parties together and that beyond this he had none other. The venue for talks could be anywhere, be it in Bangkok or Tokyo.

The meeting lasted for about half an hour and was rather stilted because of the presence of Marshal Dawee. The Malaysian side gained the impression that Tun Thanat felt rather hurt by the "Merdeka" article which leaked certain details of the proposals for talks at the time when he was directing his efforts towards bringing Indonesia and Malaysia together at the conference table. The outcome of the meeting seemed to be that the two leaders were speaking at tangents and that there was no meeting of minds on the matter.

The Deputy Secretary soon after the meeting had a long conference with Indhe Ya'acob, the Malaysian Ambassador, and took the opportunity to brief him fully on the Malaysian views regarding the failure of the talks. He was told that our review of the situation was that the Indonesians through Subandrio did not really wish for the talks to take place and therefore had asked Thanat Khoman, the Thai Foreign Minister, to use his good offices in bringing the two parties together. In the event that Indonesia was not prepared to come to the meeting the failure of the efforts by Thanat Khoman might be of some advantage to the Indonesians in that there might be a possibility of souring the relations between Malaysia and Thailand which would of course be to the benefit of Indonesia. Another factor was that Sihanouk must have expressed to Sukarno during the latter's visit to Cambodia not to give credit to Thailand by bringing off the talks in Bangkok. Additionally it was learnt that Sukarno had wanted the talks, if any, to take place in Tokyo in return for which he could hope to gain some advantage of some economic cooperation with Japan. Subandrio's subsequent approach to Thailand was evidently due without his express knowledge.

A copy of the intelligence brief was left with the Ambassador in order that he could continue to brief Thai Foreign Ministry officials fully on our assessment of the situation.

New Delhi (India - 18th to 20th March, 1965)

On arrival at the airport in New Delhi, the Delegation was met by the Indian Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Swaran Singh. There was a brief press conference at which Tun expressed his appreciation of the invitation extended to him by the Indian Government. He stated that he looked forward very much to the meetings that he would have with members of the Government of India to enable him to know them better and to maintain the close relationship existing between Malaysia and India. He stated that there were many things in common between our two countries, and singled out as the chief ones being our common firm belief in parliamentary democracy and the fact that our two countries were faced with a similar problem created by our enemies.

During the two days' stay in New Delhi Tun Razak had two meetings with the Minister of External Affairs, called on the President and on the Prime Minister, Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri.