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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT D.INF. 9/57/17(PM)

TEXT of speech by H.E. the Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, at the Third Session of the Federal Legislative Council in Kuala Lumpur today (Sept. 3, 1957) :

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Mr. Speaker, Sir:

I rise to move the first motion standing in my name on the Order Paper today, which is to offer to His Majesty' our humble thanks for the Gracious speech with which he has opened this session of the Legislative Council.

Sir, these are famous days. This is the first time in our history that the Paramount Ruler of an independent Malaya has addressed the Council. May this blessing continue forever. His Majesty has in this speech outlined some of the policies which his Government will pursue in the days which lie ahead. This is not the time to analyse in detail the policy which has just been outlined to you, but as our work unfolds, we shall in this Chamber have opportunities in the future for considering the many issues to which His Majesty has invited our attention. Our purpose today is rather more a symbolic one. In the midst of our celebrations which have heralded our independence, it was thought right that the Legislative Council itself should meet in circumstances of particular solemnity in view of the special part it plays in the fabric of our constitution. Yesterday with due pomp and ceremony His Majesty was installed as the first Paramount Ruler of this land, and thus one of his first acts in his high office has been to address this Council, and to set out, for your information, the general line of policy which His Government proposes to adopt. The canvas is a wide one, and on many important activities of Government it has not been possible to touch, but broad principles of development have been sketched to accord with our new independent status and above all, to ensure the welfare and happiness of the people of this land. In these matters, this Council has an important part to play when, in due course, consideration is given to the problems which confront us. We do not under-rate the difficulties which lie ahead, but we are confident that, with God's blessing, these can be overcome.

All this lies in the future, but it is appropriate that in the midst of our Merdeka joys, we should take stock of the position and realise the high destiny to which we are called.

In the Gracious speech, His Majesty has indicated the path we are to tread: let us here and now dedicate ourselves to the tasks which await us. Meanwhile it is our duty and privilege to thank His Majesty for the gracious words he has addressed to us and the honour he has paid us.

Sir, I beg to move .....

KUALA LUMPUR,  
September 3, 1957.

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(Issued at 1245 hours)

