RESS RELEASE ON MALAYSIA DAY CELEBRATIONS

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PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT THE STATE BANQUET

Text of Speech to be given by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tunku Abdul Rahman Ritra, at the State Banquet in Parliament House this evening, Wednesday, September 18, (Not for publication before delivery which is expected to be 9.45 p.m. Malayan Time)

Your Majesties, Your Highnesees, Your Excellencies, Hon'blo Ministers, the Hon'ble the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mentri Mentri Besar, Chief Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlement:

These are happy yet eventful days for all our people as the flags fly the bells ring and the lights shine and everyone enjoys the celebrations in honour of Malaysia.

And tonight is a happy occasion because we welcome our friends from far and near at this State Banquet in Parliament House now being used for the very first time, in fact the only part of the building which has been specially completed for the occasion, so that they and we can enjoy Merdeka the better in this comfortable and spacious air-conditioned hall.

Yesterday in the Stadium Merdeka I had the privilege of reading the Proclamation announcing to all the world the formation of Malaysia. As the cheers of Merdeka for Malaysia rang through the air and slowly died away, I felt most excited, almost childishly excited.

I felt so because the long-sought and the long-awaited goal of Walaysin was finally won. The pangs of birth of the new Malaysia have been far from easy. In fact, the gestation was fraught with uncertainties and difficulties creating their own pressures

and tonsions from within and without. In spite of the help given by
the United Nations Secretary General through his good offices in carrying
out an ascertainment as requested in Manila, the tension from without
has not been reduced.

There was also a degree of uncretainty from within, but at the last moment common sense and goodwill prevailed and a happy understanding was reached. As a result, we are all now able to sit down together at a festive banquet and celebrate Malaysia.

In this happy gathering I see a crown of success - all around gaiety, friendliness and the smiling faces of friends from many landss who have travelled long distances to join us in our rejoicing over this great event in our history. Tonight it is my privilege and honour on this truly Royal occasion of State to give my first public speech as Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The new Malaysia promises well for the future, as we go our own ways together, provided of ourse that we are not unduly disturbed from outside. Malaysia will be a happy country with a stable economy and sound administration and great potentiality for progress and development. The people of Malaysia are happy-go-lucky by nature, living like children basking in the sunshine of happiness. For happiness and peace are all we ask of God and man - to be allowed to pursue our own way of life, to have our own little pleasures, bearing a grudge against no one, but only asking to be able to live in peace and good neighbourliness with all the countries in this region of Asia and with all the rest of the world.

I am very happy indeed to give the warmest possible welcome to Malaysia to all our distinguished guests from many nations. As representatives of your countries your presence graces the occasion of Malaysia. On behalf of Malaysia and all her people, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for this gesture of friendship to us. It will always warm our hearts to know that you are good friends who wish Malaysia well.

behalf of the British Government this morning through my good friend, the Right Honourable Mr. Duncan Sandys, He said that Her Majesty the Queen had transferred sovereignty over Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak to His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in the knowledge that this was the clear wish of their peoples. He was sure that they had chosen wisely and that Malaysia would offer to them and to all her citizens widening opportunities for progress and prosperity. I wish to express my deep appreciation of the sentiments of the United Kingdom in relation to Malaysia and of the trust that they have placed in us by agreeing to the peaceful and happy evolution of Malaysia. I can assure you that the Government and people of Malaysia will honour this trust as strongly as they respect the friendship that inspires it.

For us in Malaysia it is a real honour to have so many distinguishe guests here to share our pleasure and our joy. I hope that when you retur to your various homelands you will have very pleasant memories of these days of celebration of Malaysia in Malaysia. I would like to ask each of you to convey to your Government and people the most cordial greetings, good wishes and thanks of the Government and people of Malaysia.

This gathering in goodwill and friendship is memorable also in another way that touches nearer home, but it presents a little problem of fine distinction. I want to bid a very warm welcome, too, to all our brothers from Singapore, Sarawak and Sabah and their wives, to their Heads of State and their political leaders. I am sure all Malayans would like me to do so, but how can I when they and we are all Malaysians together? They, like us, are hosts, not guests. However, as a Prime Minister is expected to find a way out of difficulties, I take this first opportunity publicly to wish all of you warm welcome, as Malaysians, to the National Capital.

From this time forward we share with one another all joys and sorrows, all difficulties and triumphs. We face the future and whatever it may hold in store, arm in arm, hand in hand, together as one, finding unity in our diversity and drawing strength from our unity. Malaysia could not have come into being without the full and true wish and will of our people. Malaysia sprang naturally from our own desire and determination, and came to final fruition through a spirit of co-operation and goodwill on all sides. Together we will build the future with confidence and trust in one another, with faith in our friends, love for our fellow men, and humble and deep devotion to God.

On an occasion like Malaysia I feel there may have been some shortcomings here and there. I know that you will understand that the celebration of Malaysia is an event of great magnitude for our small country, so perhaps there are one or two things we may have overlooked. If so, I hope you will forgive us for any little inconveniences they may have caused to you. In the ecstasy of joy a little pain may be felt, but to no real hurt. I truly hope that you have been happy among us in Malaysia, as happy as you have made us in giving you the warmest of welcomes.

Your Majesties, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Hon'ble
Ministers, the Hon'ble the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mentri Mentri
Besar, Chief Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to rise now, and
on behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia, to drink a heart-felt
toast of hospitality and friendship and sincere good wishes for the
happiness and prosperity of all "Our Guests".

Kuala Lumpur,

18hb. September, 1963. (di-keluarkan pada pukul 9.00 malam)