

RADIO MALAYA PRESS STATEMENT

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Text of a Party Political broadcast by Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-haj, of the Alliance Party, over Radio Malaya at 7.15 p.m. on Sunday (August 16, 1959) :-

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We are all ready for the national elections, the first of their kind in Malaya. On Wednesday, three days from now, citizens of this country will turn out to vote into office their first fully-elected Government for the nation.

In the hands of the voters are my own Party with 104 candidates for the 104 seats in Parliament. Fighting us are the P.M.I.P. with 58 candidates, the Socialist Front with 37, Negara with nine, and the rest are P.P.P. or Independents. These parties or groups are opposed to us on major political issues, but they are in fact basically opposed to one another on almost every issue. Should the Alliance fail to get a majority of seats I do not think it is possible for any of these parties to get together and form a Government. In the first place it would be impossible for them to agree on a leader, and in the second place for them to agree on any firm policy.

None of the parties except the Alliance can form a Government on its own because of the small number of candidates they are putting up or their slim chances of winning. Therefore none of the parties except the Alliance can justify the promises they make in the election campaign. The Alliance, however, has issued a Manifesto, and we intend to implement every statement we have made in it.

It is also certain that with our broadminded policy, on race, class and religion, we can never think of forming a coalition with any of these parties. In fact our own party is already a coalition of Malays, Chinese and Indians. We believe that if this country is to have any progress at all there must be unity and a common loyalty to Malaya, for, without it there can be no prospect of peace in this country.

Under the years of colonial rule we lived as a people divided. And that was not all; we were prone to look on one another with fear, suspicion and distrust. Since the colonial masters have left, the inclination is to regard Independence as a spoil. So what some politicians are doing now is making a bid to grab the largest portion for themselves alone, and plunge our country into wreck and ruin. So they build their platforms on promises that they will gratify the desires and greed of any group, and also the so-called down-trodden workers.

The Alliance alone says and believes that the nation and the people can best be served by real understanding and unity among the various races of this country. And so, on this unshakable faith we have set our political course.

When the recent dispute in the Alliance threatened to break up UMNO and the MCA, I still refused to give up the idea of this unity, even though had UMNO chosen to fight the election on its own we would have had a very bright prospect of winning most of the seats in Parliament on Malay votes alone.

But it is not seats we are after, it is the nation's well-being. There is no reason for the various races of this country to feel concern or alarm; the nation's Charter - the Federal Constitution - guarantees the nation's sovereignty and the rights and liberties of all the people and the Alliance is pledged to

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uphold this Constitution. For four years we have given proofs of our sincerity with the result that this country has never before enjoyed so much goodwill among nations abroad; or so much peace and prosperity at home.

At this stage of our national progress, why introduce religion, race or class into politics? All right-thinking people know that this kind of talk is mischievous, evil and dangerous.

One thing said against the Alliance Government is that we have created a state of Emergency in this country for our own benefit. The Emergency was created by the enemies of our State to seize power through acts of violence and terror. This country has suffered much both in lives and money to fight our enemies, and even the Emergency laws have not been effective enough to deal with some of them. No other political parties say anything against our enemies; instead they heap all their abuses on the Alliance as if we are the enemy of the people and the State. They have never said even a single word in tribute to the devotion to duty or to the valour of our security forces in their fight against the enemies of the State. They have no sense of gratitude or nationhood; they think in terms of seats alone.

Whatever they have to say against our party, one indisputable fact remains - and that is that we brought this country from a state of subjection to sovereign independence, from a people divided to a people unified and happy from political obscurity into the world's limelight.

We have everything in this country that life can wish for; there are good roads, good schools, good health and good hospitals and good welfare institutions. We have places of amusement, clubs and associations, playgrounds and other facilities for man to enjoy himself to his heart's content. No man is denied his rights to worship, to talk, to move or to associate freely. There is plenty of food and clothing for all. What more could we wish for? Opportunities are provided for all, particularly for the rural population so that they can try to better themselves. Lands are being opened up; money is being spent or will be spent through R.I.D.A., the Apex Bank, the Land Bank and an industrial Bank for small businessman and any enterprising man to improve his earnings.

We believe in devoting the whole of our resources to social, industrial, economic and political improvement. Because country is not fully developed we cannot think of building up a big armed force. We have to plan and work for a better life, higher standards of living and economic stability. Our choice lies between feeding all the people or feeding a big army. If we can get help

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from our friends for the defence of this country, why not take it and save our money for other useful purposes. Food, clothing and medicine are much more useful to us than bullets and guns.

The Alliance programme for the next five years will ensure rapid advance towards a gloriously happy Malaya. I am convinced that the sooner we get going the better it will be for the country. Elections take up much valuable time, nevertheless we must have them - have them at all levels to ensure that democracy is upheld and that the people are given their rightful share in the administration of their own country, whether on Local Councils, State Councils or Parliament.

If the Alliance Party gets in with a sufficiently large majority, I am convinced that the Federation of Malaya will be a model for the world. She will be the hub of trade and commercial activities, a meeting place for social, cultural and sports events of the Asian world. We must work hard, each and everyone of us, to create a suitable climate to make Malaya such a place. First and most of all, there must be peace and harmony in the country.

There is at the moment too much talk about differences of race, religion and class rather than about our similarities. Too many theories and "isms", too much selfishness, too much talk about imagined grievances, will only help to destroy the happy climate which will set Malaya firmly on the road to progress and prosperity. To encourage investment we must provide a proper sense of security, and this is not possible if we talk now of troubles to come. Let us therefore sink our differences and speak about what is good for the country as a whole.

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The Alliance plan will raise the living standard and provide more opportunities for employment. We must have more capital investment here, both local and foreign. Without it how can we expect to absorb all the thousands of young men and women who leave schools from year to year, and all the others who may need work. When some leaders talk of more pay for Government daily-rated workers, let them also take into account those employed on the estates, the mines and in other industries, as well as the earnings of those in the rural and coastal areas. We plan to improve the lot of all these people as well; this is contained in our Manifesto, and development plans.

At the same time we do not let it be misunderstood that we are doing nothing about any of the claims of the workers. At this moment an independent Commission is sitting to consider the recent claim for more pay by Government daily-rated workers. This Commission fully represents both the workers and Government with an independent Chairman. While this Commission is still sitting to enquire into the claim and prepare a report, some members of the opposition parties are going round the country telling the people that the Alliance Government is a hard and wicked taskmaster, or even say downright rotten. They spread the lie that Ministers are filling their pockets and living in absolute abandon while the labourers starve. They know full well that this is malicious slander, that the Ministers are honest and that they are dedicated to duty. To what lengths people are prepared to go to canvass votes, God alone knows.

To win a few seats this smear campaign goes on, to hold Ministers and high Government officials in ridicule, hatred and contempt. Can you imagine us facing the electorate unless our conscience is clear? We do so now with our heads up and in the knowledge that we are straight, fearless and dedicated, and the people know this. We are ready to do and die to build up the nation we love so much. We can boast of an administration that is good, efficient and clean; of a country which is peaceful and prosperous; of a people who are happy and contented. Few parties in the world could have done so much for a country in so short a time. It is therefore a matter of great pride to us to feel that we have done it - done it with the co-operation of the Government servants and the people, the police and the armed forces. And given the chance, we will do more.

We contest this election with confidence that the people know and appreciate what we have been doing for them and what we can do for the country. We are sure they are in the best position to judge what is good for them, which party can best serve the needs of our young nation, and which leader can fulfil all the promises made in an election manifesto. Read our manifesto well, and rest assured that we will do all that we say we will. That is my promise to you.

The 19th of August is D-Day. The very life of the nation hangs on the success of the Alliance Party. I know it and so do you, so vote Alliance for peace and plenty. God bless you all, MERDEKA.