

BROADCAST BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RT. HON. SIR ROBERT MENZIES, ON RADIO AUSTRALIA ON THE OCCASION OF MALAYSIA DAY ON 16TH SEPTEMBER, 1963

Ladies and Gentlemen :

With great pleasure I convey my congratulations and best wishes to the Leaders and peoples of Malaysia on this very notable day in their history.

The establishment of Malaysia is of particular interest to Australia and Australians for we have had a close and warm association with you in the past and are extremely keen to come even closer to you as you develop your new nationhood.

I regret to say that I have never visited either North Borneo or Sarawak but I do of course know the Leaders of Malaysia and Singapore, Tunka Abdul Rahman and Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, for each of whom I have great respect and regard.

We in Australia have had a long experience in the formation of a self-governing federation out of a group of self-governing colonies. As you perhaps know, all this happened in Australia just before the end of the last century with the result that the Australian Federation came into existence in 1901. So we have had a good deal of experience in forming a federation, and of course, we have now had 60 years of experience in making that federation work. I mention this because, although today represents a splendid beginning, I would not like you to think it represents the end of a road; it is really the beginning of one. From now on, it is your task to make the federation effective, strong, cohesive, influential, and I am sure you will go about it in that way.

Now what I have just said indicates just why we are deeply interested in you and are very confident of your success. We have of course some special personal contacts. A number of your young men and women have come to Australia for educational or other purposes and I believe (and I am sure rightly) that they have found great friendship among the Australian people.

These contacts in addition to all the others I need not refer to, will no doubt continue and grow. They have certainly produced in Australia a great affection for, and a high degree of understanding of Malaysia and its special problems. We are, of course - you Malaysia, we the Commonwealth of Australia - Commonwealth partners and we have a strong interest, an enduring interest in peace and in the economic advancement of South East Asia. I emphasise this because I regard the Malaysia creation as a great step forward, in the forwarding of peace and the forwarding of economic development.

We must all work together, think together, be willing to understand each other and to help each other. My Minister for External Affairs, Sir Garfield Barwick, is personally representing the Australian Government and its people at your inaugural celebrations and I do not need to tell you that he bears with him the good wishes of everybody in Australia.

I am sure that your new unity will bring in its train the strength that will ensure a great future for Malaysia. That is certainly what I wish, that is certainly what the people of Australia wish, and therefore it is the wish we send you on this occasion in your history.

You have the warmest expressions of goodwill from my country and its people.
