

PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA  
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Speech by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt  
at Malaysian State Dinner, Kuala Lumpur

27TH APRIL, 1966

Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers, Excellencies, gentlemen.

I am delighted to pay my first official visit to Malaysia as the Prime Minister of Australia.

I am, as you may be aware, no stranger to the charm of your country and the warmth of your hospitality.

My last visit was in September, 1964, when Commonwealth Finance Ministers met here.

Even in the limited time available for observation since my arrival this morning it is readily seen that Malaysia has continued its solid progress and development.

My colleagues and I have greatly appreciated the opportunity you provided to us to hold discussions today with yourself and members of the Cabinet.

This has given us a body of useful knowledge and a valuable insight into the policies you are pursuing.

My colleagues and I appreciated the privilege we were given today of an audience with His Majesty the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong.

You Sir, and many of your fellow Ministers and your senior officials have greeted me as old friends.

There is in our consultations and exchanges an intimacy and an underlying mutual respect which has developed over many years of close co-operation.

This feeling of close friendship gives an added depth and value to the continuous interchange between our two countries in so many fields.

Malaysia has overcome many difficulties in recent years.

The successful way in which you have met and overcome the challenges that have arisen is a clear indication of the inherent strength and resilience of your multiracial community.

Hand in hand with the effort to preserve your security, you have made rapid advancement in the economic and social fields.

It was good to learn from you personally today, Tun Razak, of your Government's rural development programme.

This important activity clearly owes much to you for its inspiration and its effective and purposeful execution.

The co-operation between our two countries is now a matter of record and history having developed over a period of time

in many areas affecting the national life of both of us.

We are joined along with other Commonwealth countries in military arrangements for defence and security.

The relationship between the Armed Forces of our two countries is a close one.

Our two countries share a determination to preserve national independence, stability and freedom

We are glad to assist you with technical assistance and to have your young men and women at our universities and technical institutions in substantial numbers.

Our trade expands steadily and there is a growing Australian investment here.

It is a refreshing experience to visit Kuala Lumpur with its individuality, its atmosphere of modern progress and colourful growth.

For Australians, development-minded as we are, this is a stimulating atmosphere.

We feel very much at home too, in your democratic environment and we admire the flexibility of outlook and the political wisdom which Malaysian leaders bring to the country's complex national affairs.

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