



VISIT TO SOUTH EAST ASIA 1968

MALAYSIA

ARRIVAL STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER,  
MR. JOHN GORTON

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11 JUNE 1968

I am glad to have this opportunity to visit Malaysia soon after taking office as Prime Minister of Australia. Our two countries have long been in warm and friendly association. I look forward with pleasure to once again meeting and talking with your revered Prime Minister and his colleagues, so many of whom are well known to us in Australia.

It is a pleasant experience to fly into Kuala Lumpur and see this beautiful and well laid out city and the attractive, prosperous countryside which surrounds it. Over the years, peaceful suburbs and rural development have transformed areas which were once the scenes of bitter conflict. The peace and harmony in Malaysia is the more noticeable because I have recently been in South Vietnam. . . . a country and people still suffering the ravages of war.

Yet one can take heart from what Malaysia has succeeded in doing. For Malaysia too has had its trial by fire. You were able to overcome the challenge of insurrection, long continued, and having overcome go on to develop a progressive nation. This must encourage all small countries subject to aggression or externally-inspired subversion.

Malaysia is a living example of what can be achieved in the Asian region by a Government dedicated to national development and to expanding opportunities for its peoples. We in Australia admire the increasing part that Malaysia is playing in regional affairs, both in its direct contacts with neighbouring countries and through its membership of the regional organisations and groupings that are being established to promote the sense of community and the common purpose of the region. And we look to close co-operation with Malaysia in these endeavours.

These are among the matters I shall be discussing during my stay in Kuala Lumpur. I hope, too, to give your Government an account of my visit to Vietnam. Although my visit is not directly connected with the Five-Power talks, I shall hope to hear Malaysian views on the progress of the talks. While in Malaysia, I will visit Australian forces at Terendak and at Butterworth.

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