

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE YANG DI-PERTUAN
NEGARA, TUN YUSOF BIN ISHAK, TO THE ALL -
MALAYA MUSLIM MISSIONARY SOCIETY AT A TEA-
PARTY AT RAFFLES HOTEL ON 7TH AUGUST, 1964.

I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the All-Malaya Muslim Missionary Society for inviting me to this tea-party. I am particularly pleased to note that in spite of the anxieties and inconveniences caused by the recent disturbances all of you are able to participate today in a function which is part and parcel of our normal run of activities.

It is surely to the credit of the citizens of Singapore that they can return to their usual routine of life so soon after the recent brief flare-up of violence. The Central and State Governments dealt swiftly and effectively with mischief-makers and potential rioters, but is required the concerted effort of the peoples of Singapore, in refusing to be emotionally swayed by insidious rumours, to bring the situation to an even keel. This reflects the commonsense and goodwill that exists.

However, we must not allow this note of optimism to lull us into a false sense of euphoria. The unhappy experience which we have just gone through should serve as a grim reminder of the cancerous nature of the disease of communal violence. It is imperative that all of us should take positive steps to immunize our society completely from such dreadful happenings. Now more than ever the need to sink all our differences becomes pressingly urgent.

The peoples of Singapore came through with relatively little damage. It is now our duty to ensure that the enemies of our nation are not provided with another opportunity to disrupt us by inciting the desperate and lunatic fringe of our society.

By consenting to become citizens of Malaysia we have opted voluntarily to live in a multi-racial society and the prerequisites for our survival are tolerance, mutual trust and goodwill towards one another.

As we pick up the momentum of our normal life again, racial harmony must not only be re-established but inextricably ingrained into our system. This is a task for all of us in Malaysia.

And we, Muslims, have an added incentive to restore and retain harmony because one of the major tenets of Islam is Tolerance. The inculcation of this virtue is one of the many reasons why our religion remains one of the major religions of the world. Muslims from the days of the Caliphates and the early conquests have always shown a spirit of tolerance towards people of other religions. In our present context, tolerance and understanding is all the more necessary because we have a vested interest in the survival of Malaysia, where our peoples are of many races and religions.

We must remember the fact that nobody but our enemies will profit from our internecine quarrels. Finally let us face the future with confidence in our ability to know what is good for our country and our people and to work towards progress and happiness at all times.

AUGUST 7, 1964.

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