

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER  
AT THE OPENING OF THE JAPAN TRADE IN KUALA LUMPUR  
ON 13 FEBRUARY, 1960

Your Excellency, the Ambassador for Japan, Your Excellencies, Members of the Japanese Trade Mission, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

This is a significant occasion, coming as it does during the course of the current trade talks between my country and Japan, and I congratulate most sincerely the organisers of this Trade Fair who have gone to great pains to put before the public of the Federation of Malaya an Exhibition of the industrial capacity of Japan.

We have had Trade Fairs before, but nothing so comprehensive as the show Japan is putting on in this Stadium. We can truly say that we admire the persistence and salesmanship of the Japanese in pushing their manufactures, and also the progress their country has made in expanding industry. And I may add, we in Malaya welcome fair competition, even if it competes with our own industry.

When I visited Japan I was very struck by the tremendous vitality there, and by the great improvements and impressive developments in the industrial field. Japan is a big buyer of our rubber, and is the sole buyer of our iron ore. From these products they manufacture goods and send them all over the world. There must, therefore, be markets for Japanese goods.

Malaya is a country which has no currency restrictions, and we are able to buy as we like manufactured goods from Japan. It is our hope that other countries in this part of the world will be able to do same. Otherwise it will be very difficult for Japan to supply the needs of her many millions of people. This is one of the factors I had in mind in bringing forward proposals for economic co-operation in Southeast Asia. We can send our primary products to such places as Japan, and we can pool our resources to buy manufactured goods. In this way we will provide mutual help through trade.

The organisers of this show have done a very good job to give us a general survey of goods from Japan, and I hope the Trade Fair will be a resounding success and very popular with the Malayan Public.

Your Excellency, I now take very great pleasure indeed in declaring this Japan Trade Fair open.