

inherent in the system of apartheid in South Africa. I was therefore moved by the strong statement of principle delivered on this question by Prime Minister Mahatir in the current UN General Assembly.

Excellency, this Conference will deal primarily with bilateral relations between our two countries, against a background of domestic policies, cultural realities and foreign policy considerations which affect those relations, especially in economic terms. I expect, given the traditional openness which characterizes our relations, that the discussions of the next three days will be frank and substantive. No apologies need be made if, in addition to the positive factors in the relationship, the problem areas are identified as well, and thoroughly aired. The outcome, I am sure, will be a deeper understanding of each by the other and, I trust, it will have a positive catalytic effect on our future relations.

Excellency, I realize that you are new to the portfolio of Foreign Minister, but I should point out to our guests that you have already served your country in a number of senior capacities since entering political life in 1974; as a Member of Parliament, as Chief Minister of your home state and in the Cabinet posts of Land and Regional Development, and of Information. You therefore bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to your present position, which I am confident you will fill with distinction.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honour and pleasure to introduce to you our keynote speaker for this Canada-Malaysia Conference, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, His Excellency Dato Rais Yatim.