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Title:

Speech at the opening of the Malay Language & Culture Association of SA Weekend Market

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, AT THE OPENING OF THE MALAY LANGUAGE & CULTURE ASSOCIATION OF S.A. WEEKEND MARKET. 11/12/71.

MR. ARIFFIN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT GIVES ME MUCH PLEASURE THIS MORNING TO BE ABLE TO OPEN "PASAR MINGGU" THE WEEKEND MALAY MARKET ORGANISED BY YOUR ASSOCIATION.

IT HAS BEEN ORGANISED AS PART OF THE ASSOCIATION'S CONTINUING EFFORT TO LET SOUTH AUSTRALIANS KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CUSTOMS, CULTURE AND CUISINE OF OUR NEIGHBOURS TO THE NORTH.

THERE IS NOW A WIDE GENERAL ACCEPTANCE IN THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGION TO AUSTRALIA. IT'S ACCEPTED, TOO, THAT WE ARE OURSELVES PART OF THIS ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION WITH AN IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY IN IT. TO A VERY CONSIDERABLE EXTENT OUR DESTINIES ARE INTERMINGLED.

BUT IT IS VITAL TO AUSTRALIA'S INTERESTS THAT RELATIONS DEVELOP BETWEEN OURSELVES AND OUR NEIGHBOURS ON A BASIS OF CO-PARTNERSHIP AND MUTUAL RESPECT.

AS I'VE SAID, THERE IS BROAD ACCEPTANCE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AREA BUT THIS IS STILL A SOMEWHAT ABSTRACT NOTION.

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DESPITE THE CONTINUALLY GROWING TRADE AND OTHER TIES THERE IS A SURPRISING IGNORANCE AMONG ORDINARY SOUTH AUSTRALIANS OF THE WAY OF LIFE IN SOUTH EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES.

THIS IS NO LONGER QUITE AS TRUE AS WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE A DECADE AGO THANKS IN PART TO THE EFFORTS OF YOUNG ASIANS STUDYING HERE: THE LEADING ROLE OF ASIAN PERFORMERS AT THE ADELAIDE FESTIVAL AND THE SWELLING VOLUME OF TOURISM.

BUT STILL THE AVERAGE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN KNOWS VERY LITTLE OF CONDITIONS IN SOUTH EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, OF THE PROBLEMS AND OF THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CIVILISATIONS OF THEIR INHABITANTS.

THIS IS WHY I THINK A FUNCTION SUCH AS THIS IS SO IMPORTANT.

IN LETTING SOUTH AUSTRALIANS KNOW MORE ABOUT MALAY LIFE AND CUSTOMS IT PLAYS A VALUABLE PART IN THE TOTAL INFORMATIONAL EFFORT NECESSARY IF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND HER NEIGHBOURS IS TO BE EFFECTIVE.

IT ALSO HAS A VERY CIVILISING EFFECT IN THAT IT ENABLES AUSTRALIANS, MALAYSIANS, SINGAPOREANS AND INDONESIAIS TO MINGLE IN A FREE AND EASY WAY.

IT TELLS SOUTH AUSTRALIANS SOMETHING OF THE EXTRAORDINARILY RICH AND COMPLEX CULTURE WHICH IS THE HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT OF MALAYAN CIVILISATION.

SIR, I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE WAY IN WHICH YOU'VE ORGANISED "PASAR MINGGU". THERE CAN BE FEW MORE ENJOYABLE WAYS OF LEARNING ABOUT EACH OTHER THAN AT AN EVENT LIKE THIS AND I'M SURE IT WILL BE THE SUCCESS IT DESERVES TO BE.

THANK YOU.