

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
REPLY TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S TOAST  
STATE DINNER - DJAKARTA  
November 4, 1967

*Mr. Suharto*

Thank you, Mr. President. *General question - Mr. Speaker.*

I am conscious of the many bonds which link our two countries. While it is true that our countries are very different, yet in many profound ways we have much in common.

-2-

∟ I am struck by our national mottos -- yours in Sanskrit and ours in Latin -- which carry the same message. Yours translates as "Unity in Diversity," and ours "Out of Many, One."

∟ Both symbolize the fact that our countries cover large areas and include a variety of peoples from differing backgrounds.

-3-

Both recognize that the diversities found in our countries are a source of strength and vitality in our national lives -- our peoples are united in their dedication to the goals of a better life for all our citizens . . . freedom of belief and conscience . . . freedom of thought . . . and national independence.

I am convinced, Mr. President, that this common appreciation of unity in diversity -- and freedom for diversity -- extends to the way we both observe the world around us. \_\_\_\_\_

Our basic interests, I firmly believe, are the same -- a world in which each nation is free to pursue its own national destiny, subject to the

obligation not to harm the legitimate interests of its fellow nations.

We in the United States, like you in Indonesia, do not seek to impose our ways on anyone. But neither of us is prepared to ~~per~~mit others to impose their ways on us. We both seek to contribute to the development of this kind of world.

It is this deeply-felt view, Mr. President, which underlies American policies in Southeast Asia.

Our long-range objective is also yours -- a Southeast Asia able to provide its own defense and livelihood ... a Southeast Asia with which we can cooperate in commerce and in efforts toward social and economic development. We are impressed with new regional efforts to this end. We want to help.

We respect the right of all nations to follow their own active and independent foreign policies. Our policy was best described by the late President John Kennedy --

"Let every nation know, whether it wish us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe

to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

It is to this end that we have taken our stand in Korea and Vietnam.

It is to this end, Mr. President, that the United States has over the past 20 years engaged in various forms of economic and technical assistance to other nations, including Indonesia. We intend to continue to help where we can, including in Indonesia.

We have, as you know, joined with other nations to determine, in consultation with your government, how we can together best help your courageous efforts.

This undertaking testifies to the goodwill for Indonesia among friendly countries.

↳ For it is clearly in the interests of everyone that all should progress and prosper -- that all should find

fulfillment in a developing and changing world through peaceful cooperation.

And this, Mr. President, I would submit, is the meaning of our own national motto.

Ladies and Gentlemen: *ask you to join me in*  
A toast to peace and progress, to the prosperity of Indonesia, and to the leadership demonstrated in the quest ~~of~~ these goals by ~~the~~ *The* Acting President of Indonesia, ~~General Suharto~~.

###

FOA/ETrip

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

O/C  
M phone  
11/22

TO : Mr. Van Dyk  
Office of the Vice President

DATE: November 18, 1967

FROM : Jewell Wilson  
Department of State Bulletin  
(Code 182, Extension 5806)

SUBJECT: Bulletin Material on the Vice President's Trip to Asia

In accordance with our telephone conversation, I am enclosing a copy of the text of the Vice President's remarks to the American Embassy staff at Djarkarta, with suggested editorial changes. Your comments and further suggestions will be gratefully received.

The overall caption on the material will be: "Vice President Humphrey Visits Viet-Nam, Malaysia, and Indonesia."

Here is a suggested introductory paragraph. If you approve, it would read:

"Vice President Humphrey return<sup>ed</sup> to Washington November 7 after completing a mission, undertaken at the request of President Johnson, to three Southeast Asian nations: the Republic of Viet-Nam, Malaysia, and Indonesia. In Viet-Nam the Vice President headed the U.S. delegation to the inauguration ceremonies for President-elect Nguyen Van Thieu and Vice-President-elect Nguyen Cao Ky, held at Saigon on October 31.

(?) "Following are the Vice President's remarks upon presenting his credentials to President-elect Thieu at Saigon on October 30, his response to a toast by Malaysian Prime Minister Abdul Rahman at a state dinner at Kuala Lumpur on November 2 (?), his remarks to the American Embassy staff at Djakarta, Indonesia, on November 4, and the text of a joint communique issued at Djakarta at the conclusion of his visit on November 6. "

Can you confirm the date of the dinner at Kuala Lumpur? None of the material I have received is dated.

Also, did the Vice President present his credentials to General Thieu?

I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible so that we can schedule publication without further delay. Thank you.

Attachment.



TRANSCRIPT OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY'S REMARKS  
AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, DJAKARTA, NOVEMBER 4, 1967

*delete*

Thank you very much Ambassador Green, and Mrs. Green and your Sister. I am so happy to see my friend from Philadelphia, and my fellow Americans, young and younger. There are none that are older than that. We have had a pleasant visit already in Indonesia. A very fine and warm reception from the Acting President of Indonesia, Mr. Suharto, and an opportunity to call on His Excellency at the Palace and visit with him in a most friendly, and I hope helpful manner. For the past hour and half or two hours I have been with our very able Ambassador and members of this Embassy team discussing this country and our country, and talking about you and getting advice as to what I might say to you, so from here on out whatever I say you blame on the Ambassador. Good or bad he is apt to get in trouble. I am so happy to see all these young Americans here before me, very charming young people and I noted there in back--and I am glad that they are coming up--that there are some of the citizens of Indonesia that are employees here in the American Mission and that they have been willing to come here and join us because I want to talk to them as well as to talk to you. Can you hear out there, is this projecting? Fine.

*Begin here →*

I have just come from a few days in Vietnam and a little over ~~three~~ <sup>3</sup> days in Malaysia. This has been a rewarding visit for me because I look upon the opportunity of travel and of visiting foreign capitals and the rural areas in other ~~communities of other~~ countries as a chance to learn, an opportunity to observe, and, hopefully, out of that observation to be a better informed man and thereby to have better judgment.... I am sure that you know that these observations that I make, whatever they may be, are shared with the officers of our Government from the President through the other officers of Government. *enable us to* The purpose of a journey such as this is to better acquaint all of us, particularly those that are in responsible government positions, ~~to better acquaint us with the~~ facts as we see them and, hopefully, to arrive at decisions that will be constructive in terms of our national policy.

¶ What is that national policy? It is one of trying to fulfill the pledges and the commitments that we have undertaken under the Charter of the United Nations. We take that Charter seriously. It is in all truth the supreme law of the land, because it is a treaty, and under our Constitution a treaty takes on the same provisions or the same meaning as an article of the Constitution itself or a public law. The Charter of the United Nations calls upon its signatory members--and we were one of the first--~~it calls upon us to try to promote and build those~~ conditions which are conducive to peace. It calls upon the members to resist aggression, either individually or collectively. It calls upon the members to promote self-determination, nation building. It calls upon its members, upon the signatories, to combat social misery. ~~In~~ other words, to improve the economic and social climate, the environment in which mankind lives. Now, those are the objectives of the United States

of America. We didn't sign that treaty or that charter without careful thought. We have had no reason to regret it. In fact our commitment to the U. N. ~~and to all that it means to that~~ Charter is more meaningful today than it was even when we signed it, because this is a bigger world, it is a world with greater problems, and it is a world in which there is greater danger.

9 So when I come to Indonesia, I do not come here to serve any particular national selfish ambition. I come here as a representative of a family of nations. And I come here but with one thought in mind. How can we best help our friends in Indonesia do what they want to do for themselves? We Americans must understand that our mission in the world today is not to remake the world to our design. We must understand that our mission ~~is~~ or put it this way, that our purpose and privilege is to help people to live their lives a little better in more happiness, in more security, in more freedom, within their own culture, in their own way.

4 I said when I was in Vietnam that we did not want a Vietnam that was stamped "Made in the U.S.A." But we wanted to see a Republic of Vietnam come about with the insignia or the stamp on it that said, "Vietnam, made in Vietnam by the Vietnamese for the Vietnamese." With our help, yes, if we can give it. And we are giving it. But we want a world, not that is a monolith, but a world that is in a very real sense a pluralistic society, a mosaic, in which the beauty of each stands out because it is in contrast ~~in comparison~~ to others. We seek peaceful coexistence, and we are perfectly willing to live in a competitive world that is peaceful; where we pit our ideas against others; where we are willing to channel the great energies and vitality and resources of our private enterprise in competition with other systems. (one)

9 I happen to be one that believes that the institutions of representative government and democracy best serve the interests of the people. Winston Churchill once said that democracy is the worst possible form of government except all others. Except all others, because government at its best is difficult. It always imposes some restraints. So you have to make choices. And the choice that we seek to make and that we have made, is one of ~~the~~ government of the people, ~~and~~ by the people, and for the people.

4 I believe that is what most people want. I really do. I do not believe that any people have wilfully and by premeditation and desire become a totalitarian state. I happen to believe that most people ~~in~~ fact the vast majority of people ~~in~~ would like to live in freedom and independence and in mutual trust. Now, that's our purpose, and let's make it clear. And I want every American to understand it. We don't want any ~~fax~~ Americana. We are not the Roman Empire. We are the people of the United States. We do not want to be the world's policemen, even though we are perfectly willing to stand guard with other free peoples when their citadel of freedom is under attack. We prefer to be known as the nation's builders. We'd like to be the teachers, the doctors,

the engineers. We'd like to be the helpers. We'd prefer to be men of construction rather than destruction. We'd prefer to be men and women of compassion rather than just passion itself. So if we'll think that way and act that way, we'll be performing the mission that this Embassy seeks to perform and that our government seeks to perform.

¶ After all, remember everybody that is a citizen of the United States is an Ambassador of the United States. You haven't been exactly given the citation, but I give it to you in my role as Vice President today. And how you talk, what you say, what you do, how you act, reflects upon your country. And very frankly, it also has a very important effect, good or evil, on the relationships of our country with others. I am very proud of our Americans. I think that in the main we give a pretty good accounting of ourselves. I know that here today are representatives of the voluntary agencies, of the great private sector of our economy. I know that there are people here that represent every agency, with few exceptions, of our federal government and possibly state and local governments. I want you to pull together as a team, not under the mandate of compulsion but rather under the mandate of service, of working to help each other so that you can better help others who seek to help themselves.

¶ Now let me offer one other observation. This country has been going through a number of very important and significant developments and changes. The leaders of this country are best able to talk about those matters and describe them. I do not come to Indonesia to pass judgment, but I come here in the spirit of friendship as a representative of the President of the United States and the people of the United States. ¶ I think it can be said in the presence of the citizens of Indonesia, as well as our own fellow citizens, that the Indonesians have been doing a very good job for themselves and a very good job of building their own nation. They have had all kinds of troubles. But let us not be too boastful, we Americans. Indonesians have been doing for Indonesia what Indonesia needs, as they see it. And we find great comfort in what their leaders are doing, and what their people are doing. We find comfort in it, not because we have an alliance, because we don't; not because we are asking for their armed forces, because we are not. We find comfort in it because when the people of Indonesia have a chance to live in freedom and independence and in self-respect, that's good news for everybody. ¶ Good news for them and good news for us.

¶ I don't want it to appear any place at any time that what has happened in this country is because we made it happen, because that's not true. What's happened here is because leaders in Indonesia want Indonesia to have a new day. ¶ I want it to be a respected member of the family of nations. ¶ Because those leaders have had indomitable courage, because they have understood the aspirations and the hopes of their people. ¶ When I meet a man like his Excellency, Mr. Suharto, I am impressed and I am moved because this is a man of great courage. He is a man, I believe, that

understands the needs of his people, and his nation. ~~And~~ What he has been doing has been the product of his mind and his advisers. And we as Americans have been able to witness a mighty crusade in this country for the freedom and the progress and the success of the Indonesian people. I am very proud of them, ~~But~~ I didn't come here to tell them that we made it possible, because that would not be true. I came here to congratulate them upon their success thus far, ~~And~~ to hope and pray that their success may continue, ~~And~~, I trust, <sup>to</sup> be able to offer some encouragement towards their further success. ~~That~~ we may be as I said this morning, a partner in their progress. America is very proud to be a friend of Indonesia, and the Indonesian people. . . .

*del*  
~~And we are very proud of our Ambassador here, whom I feel understands the hopes and aspirations of the leaders of this country and its people as well. And we look to him for guidance. We trust him, the President trusts him, the Cabinet trusts him. And I hope that he has, and I believe he has the trust and the respect of the responsible leaders of Indonesia. That's all that we can ask, and I am very proud to be in his presence and to be his guest. And I hope that each and everyone of you that are working on this American team here will give him unqualified support, just as the President gives him unqualified confidence.~~

¶ So my fellow Americans, do your job well, see what you can do to help others, because in so doing you help yourself. If you want, as I know you do, a world of peace, remember that it cannot be possible in a world of poverty. ~~That~~ The mortal enemies of mankind are the same now as they were a thousand years ago: ~~the enemies of~~ ignorance and disease, ~~of~~ poverty and illiteracy, ~~of~~ pestilence and ~~of~~ fear, and suspicion. Anything that we can do to eradicate those evils, any partnership that we can form to overcome those enemies, will be a very worthy work, and one to which you can give yourself. Thank you very, very much.



# Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)