

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library  
Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** Speechwriting, White House Office  
of: Speech Drafts

**Folder Title:** Nancy Reagan: Luncheon in  
Malaysia. May 3, 1986

**Box:** 436

---

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: [reagan.library@nara.gov](mailto:reagan.library@nara.gov)

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

REMARKS FOR MAY 3, 1986 LUNCHEON IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

-- THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND INTRODUCTION AND WARM WELCOME. I HAVE ENJOYED MY STAY IN MALAYSIA SO MUCH AND AM SO GRATEFUL FOR DR. SITI HASMAH'S (SEE-TEE HAHS-MAH'S) HOSPITALITY. DR. SITI HASMAH IS QUITE A WONDERFUL WOMAN, AND I MUST TELL YOU THAT SHE WAS A GREAT ASSET WHEN SHE VISITED THE UNITED STATES IN APRIL, 1985 FOR THE FIRST LADIES CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE. SHE ALSO GENEROUSLY PREPARED A VIDEOTAPE FOR THE FIRST LADIES

CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK IN OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR, WHICH SHE COULDN'T ATTEND BECAUSE OF A COMMITMENT TO THE PARENTS GROUP MOVEMENT IN MALAYSIA. I PERSONALLY FEEL THAT WAS A VERY VALID REASON FOR NOT BEING WITH US AND I THANK HER FOR HER ASSISTANCE AND DEDICATION TO THE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN.

-- ONE REALIZATION THAT I'VE HAD SINCE COMING HERE IS HOW SIMILAR OUR DRUG PROBLEMS ARE. BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES HAVE A PROBLEM WITH HEROIN AND OTHER DRUGS WHICH ARE BROUGHT IN FROM ELSEWHERE; AND BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT

IT IS TO SAVE OUR CHILDREN FROM THE SLAVERY OF DRUG ABUSE. IN MY TRAVELS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE, AND NOW ASIA, I'VE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE PAIN AND FRUSTRATION OF YOUNG DRUG USERS AND THEIR PARENTS. WHEN YOU LOOK INTO THEIR EYES YOU CAN SEE THE ANGUISH AND THE TOLL THAT DRUG USE HAS TAKEN ON THEIR LIVES-- NOT ONLY PHYSICALLY, BUT EMOTIONALLY.

-- ONE MOTHER TOLD ME THAT "THE DRUG CULTURE IS A SELFISH CULTURE." THAT IS SO TRUE. WHEN A YOUNG PERSON IS INVOLVED WITH DRUGS, HE OR SHE LOSES INTEREST IN EVERYTHING ELSE. DRUGS

---

BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN MOTHERS, FATHERS, SISTERS OR BROTHERS. CHILDREN WILL DO ANYTHING TO SUPPORT THEIR DRUG HABITS - THEY WILL STEAL MONEY FROM THEIR PARENTS, THEY WILL KILL, THEY WILL BECOME PROSTITUTES, AND THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THIS CYCLE IS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO LEARN TO SAY NO TO DRUGS.

-- MALAYSIA HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN LAUNCHING A STRONG PREVENTION PROGRAM WHICH WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE TO SO MANY CHILDREN. THE FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN YOU HAVE ADOPTED STRONGLY EMPHASIZES PREVENTION WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT. PREVENTING DRUG

ABUSE BEFORE IT BECOMES UNCONTROLLABLE IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY WE CAN TAKE AGAINST THIS TERRIBLE PROBLEM. YOUR CLASSROOM LESSONS, TELEVISION AND RADIO SPOTS ARE REACHING MILLIONS OF CHILDREN WHO MUST LEARN THAT DRUG ABUSE IS A ROAD LEADING NOWHERE.

-- WE CAN HELP THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTRIES BY HELPING THEM TO RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENT PATHS WHICH THEY MAY ENCOUNTER AS THEY GO DOWN LIFE'S ROAD. SOME PATHS MAY BE SUNNY AND FULL OF WONDERFUL ADVENTURES. OTHER PATHS MAY BE DANGEROUS AND

DEADLY. THEY NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENCE AND LEARN TO SAY "NO" TO THE PATHS THAT LEAD TO DESTRUCTION.

-- PARENTS HAVE A VERY SPECIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE. I REMEMBER MY MOTHER SAYING "LITTLE CHILDREN, LITTLE PROBLEMS; BIG CHILDREN, BIG PROBLEMS." PARENTS EVERYWHERE KNOW HOW TRUE THIS IS, AND THE LONGER WE WAIT TO ADDRESS THE DRUG PROBLEM, THE BIGGER IT GETS. CHILDREN SHOULD BE TAUGHT ABOUT DRUG ABUSE WHEN THEY LEARN TO READ AND WRITE.

-- WE IN THE UNITED STATES ARE VERY ENCOURAGED ABOUT THE

GROWTH OF THE PARENTS MOVEMENT IN OUR COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD. IN THE UNITED STATES ALONE, OVER 9,000 PARENTS GROUPS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. AND DR. SITI HASMAH'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE PARENTS GROUPS IN MALAYSIA TELLS US HOW VERY IMPORTANT THE PARENTS MOVEMENT IS HERE, TOO.

-- YOU KNOW, THERE ARE SO MANY BONDS LINKING PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD. DESPITE SOME DIFFERENCES, WE HAVE CERTAIN BASIC NEEDS, CERTAIN SIMILARITIES WHICH TRANSCEND CULTURE AND HISTORY. THERE IS NOTHING MORE BASIC THAN A MOTHER'S LOVE FOR HER

CHILDREN, AND THERE IS NO STRONGER INSTINCT THAN A MOTHER'S WISH TO PROTECT HER CHILDREN FROM HARM.

-- THERE IS ALSO A CHILD'S NEED TO BE LOVED. DRUG ABUSE IS OFTEN A REFUGE FOR CHILDREN SEEKING TO ESCAPE FROM THE DEMANDS OF LIFE. WE HEARD THESE STORIES OF DRUG ABUSE FROM YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE FIRST LADIES UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER. BUT WE ALSO HEARD HOW THESE YOUNG PEOPLE COURAGEOUSLY FACED THEIR DRUG ABUSE AND CONQUERED IT.

-- WE CANNOT TURN OUR BACKS ON DRUG USERS -- THEY ARE

CHILDREN CRYING OUT FOR HELP. SO MANY TIMES WE HEAR PARENTS SAY "IF ONLY I HAD LISTENED TO MY CHILD BEFORE HE TURNED TO DRUGS." WELL, LET'S BEGIN TO LISTEN BETTER, TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DRUGS, AND TO PREVENT ANOTHER CHILD FROM LEAVING OUR ARMS AND FLEEING INTO THE ARMS OF THE DRUG PUSHER WHO PROMISES THE WORLD AND BRINGS ONLY PAIN AND SUFFERING.

-- WE ALL KNOW THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE ISN'T AN EASY ONE AND THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN THE FRUSTRATIONS SEEM TOO GREAT TO CONQUER. BUT IT'S AT THOSE TIMES WHEN I ALWAYS TRY TO

---

REMEMBER THE STORY OF THE STARFISH MAN AND I'D LIKE TO SHARE IT WITH YOU.

-- "ONE MORNING AT DAWN, A YOUNG MAN WENT FOR A WALK ON THE BEACH. UP AHEAD, HE NOTICED AN OLD MAN STOOPING DOWN TO PICK UP STARFISH AND FLING THEM INTO THE SEA. FINALLY, CATCHING UP WITH THE OLD MAN, HE ASKED WHY HE WAS BOTHERING TO DO THIS. THE OLD MAN ANSWERED THAT THE STRANDED STARFISH, IF LEFT OUT ON THE BEACH UNTIL THE MORNING SUN, WOULD DIE UNLESS THEY WERE RETURNED TO THE WATER."

-- "BUT THE BEACH GOES ON FOR MILES AND MILES AND THERE ARE MILLIONS OF STARFISH," PROTESTED THE YOUNGER MAN. "HOW CAN YOUR EFFORTS MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?"

-- THE OLD MAN LOOKED AT THE STARFISH IN HIS HAND AND THEN THREW IT TO SAFETY IN THE WAVES. "IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO THIS ONE," HE SAID.

-- AND THAT'S THE SPIRIT THAT KEEPS US ALL GOING. I'M CONVINCED THAT ONE DAY THE WORLD WILL BE DRUG-FREE, BUT THE WAY TO GET THERE IS TO SAVE ONE STARFISH AT A TIME. WITH EACH AND

EVERY YOUNG LIFE WE SAVE, WE ARE THAT MUCH CLOSER TO THE DAY WHEN DRUG ABUSE WILL BE A THING OF THE PAST. AND IF YOU CAN SAVE JUST ONE LIFE, ALL YOUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN WORTHWHILE.

-- THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR KINDNESS, YOUR HOSPITALITY, AND FOR HELPING. GOD BLESS YOU.

# # #

TOAST FOR 5/2/86 DINNER WITH PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

DRAFT

I am so delighted to be in Malaysia and to be with you tonight. My husband was sorry he couldn't join us, but sends his warmest wishes to all of you. Malaysia is a beautiful country and I only wish that we could stay in your part of the world a little longer.

The friendship between the United States and Malaysia, and our partnership of cooperation is very important to all Americans. And no aspect of our cooperation is more valuable than our combined efforts in the battle against drug abuse. I am so proud of the wonderful progress Malaysia has made and Dr. Siti Hasmah's outstanding leadership in this fight. Malaysia has made a major impact in halting drug abuse, not only at home, but throughout the world.

I want to stress that no task is more important than saving our children -- our most precious resource -- from this menace. Drug abuse threatens the mere <sup>mere</sup> existence of future generations. And as you know, without our children, our world would see no tomorrow.



I look forward to seeing, first hand, what the teachers, students and their parents are doing in Malaysia, and tomorrow's activities with them couldn't come sooner.

Again, thank you so much for inviting me to be with you.

In closing, I ask you to join me for a toast to Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah and her husband, Prime Minister Mahathir, and to the continued close friendship between the United States and Malaysia.

MRS. REAGAN'S REMARKS  
DINNER AT SRI PERDANA  
MAY 2, 1986

--I AM SO DELIGHTED TO BE IN MALAYSIA AND TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT. MY HUSBAND WAS SORRY HE COULD NOT JOIN US, BUT SENDS HIS WARMEST WISHES TO ALL OF YOU. MALAYSIA IS A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, AND I ONLY WISH THAT WE COULD STAY IN YOUR PART OF THE WORLD A LITTLE LONGER.

-- THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MALAYSIA, AND OUR PARTNERSHIP OF COOPERATION IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ALL AMERICANS. AND NO ASPECT OF OUR COOPERATION IS MORE VALUABLE THAN OUR COMBINED EFFORTS IN THE BATTLE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE. I AM SO PROUD OF THE WONDERFUL PROGRESS MALAYSIA HAS MADE AND DR. SITI HASMAH'S OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN THIS FIGHT. MALAYSIA HAS MADE A MAJOR IMPACT IN HALTING DRUG ABUSE, NOT ONLY AT HOME, BUT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

-- I WANT TO STRESS THAT NO TASK IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SAVING OUR CHILDREN -- OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE -- FROM

THIS MENACE. DRUG ABUSE THREATENS THE MERE EXISTENCE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS. AND AS YOU KNOW, WITHOUT OUR CHILDREN OUR WORLD WOULD SEE NO TOMORROW.

-- I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING, FIRST HAND, WHAT THE TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE DOING IN MALAYSIA, AND TOMORROW'S ACTIVITIES WITH THEM CAN'T COME SOON ENOUGH.

-- AGAIN, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR INVITING ME TO BE WITH YOU.

-- IN CLOSING, I ASK YOU TO JOIN ME FOR A TOAST TO DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH AND HER HUSBAND, PRIME MINISTER MAHATHIR, AND TO THE CONTINUED CLOSE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MALAYSIA.