



**OPENING SPEECH OF
THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
H.E. MR. YURI OCTAVIAN THAMRIN
ON THE DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION
5 OCTOBER 2009**

Excellencies,
Honoured Guests,
Friends and Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to my humble home.

Let me start off by saying thank you to all of you for allowing your time to come here tonight and attend this esteemed gathering. As I stand here in front of you, I feel honoured and joy since I see so many old friends and new acquaintances which are true friends of Indonesia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tonight we are gathered here to celebrate the 64th Anniversary of the Independence of my country, the Republic of Indonesia. At the same time, we are also commemorating the anniversary of Indonesia's Armed Forces.

If I may, I would like to recall a bit of history. The Independence Day of Indonesia was 17th of August, 1945. On that momentous day, Mr. Soekarno and Dr. Mohammad Hatta, on behalf of the people of Indonesia, proclaimed Indonesia's independence. This independence is something that all people in Indonesia have craved for more than three centuries since Indonesia was under the occupation of various foreign forces since early 1600.

Independence for Indonesia is something that cannot be described with mere words since there are so many sacrifices that our forefathers have given to achieve it. Our independence was achieved through a struggle which costs many lives, properties and sufferings.

However, it was proven that diplomacy was the ultimate device which settled the question of Indonesia's sovereignty. Through the Round Table Conference which was facilitated by the United Nations, our independence was assured. Nevertheless, beforehand many nations have already recognized Indonesia's independence. From advanced, industrialized countries such as Australia and the United States, to fellow developing nations such as India and Egypt, have given their recognition and help us in achieving our independence.

Thus the Indonesian people have celebrated independence with knowing deep within our heart that the international community is

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