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*Permanent Mission to the United Nations*

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STATEMENT BY

MR. S. GANESON  
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA

ON AGENDA ITEM 145:  
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH  
THE HOST COUNTRY

AT  
THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 59<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2004

*(Please check against delivery)*

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express our appreciation to His Excellency Andreas Mavroyiannis, Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country for his introduction of the report of the Committee as contained in document A/59/26. Malaysia would also like to commend him for the excellent manner in which he has steered the work of the Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Since the establishment of this Committee, it has played a valuable role to serve as an important and constructive avenue for exchange of views and negotiations between the United Nations, its member States and the host country to facilitate their functions. Malaysia continues to believe that the Committee has proven to be indispensable as a means for addressing practical issues encountered by member States in ensuring the smooth operations of their missions.

3. Malaysia welcomes the efforts and appreciates the commitment of the United States, through the Office of Foreign Missions, as host country to the United Nations, to extend to the diplomatic community the full scope of immunities and privileges available under international law and as embodied in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, Conventions on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and the Headquarters Agreement. In return, the host country has the right to expect that members of the diplomatic community do not abuse the privileges and immunities accorded to them. In order to create a better understanding and cooperation, Malaysia believes that there should be continuous dialogue with the host country. The Committee plays an important role in that dialogue process.

Mr. Chairman,

4. As the report indicates the issue of parking continues to dominate the discussions and work of the Committee. Malaysia appreciates the efforts taken by the United States Mission and the City of New York to resolve the problems relating to the parking of diplomatic vehicles through the New York Parking Programme for Diplomatic Vehicles. We continue to hope that the various shortcomings in the programme would soon be addressed by the City of New York, such as the need for flexibility in the transferring of decals to enable Missions and their representatives to function effectively, the need to consider providing parking spaces in front of diplomatic residences especially the residences of Ambassadors and the need to have a less burdensome and time consuming parking tickets dispute mechanism. We are happy to note that the City has taken steps to train and educate the police on the programme and the respect for diplomatic status. However, we believe that more needs to be done towards achieving this goal. We regret that diplomatic vehicles have often been

the target of indiscriminate issuance of parking tickets. We are confident that these concerns can be resolved successfully through further discussions in the Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Malaysia would like to highlight the increasing difficulties faced by diplomats in the clearance of their household effects by US Customs. Random X-ray checks and frequent delays in the processing of import documentation, taking up between 10 to 14 working days, has led to delays in the clearance of the personal effects thus resulting in diplomats incurring costly additional storage and demurrage charges. While we understand the need for the host country to take security measures to ensure that goods imported to this country do not pose a danger to the United States, we do hope that such measures applying to diplomats would conform to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, in particular the provisions relating to household effects of diplomatic personnel.

Mr. Chairman,

6. In conclusion, Malaysia would like to express our full support for the recommendations and conclusions contained in paragraph 26 of the Report of the Committee. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the representative of the United States Mission in charge of host country affairs, the Office of Foreign Missions as well as the City authorities, particularly the New York City Commission for the United Nations, Consular Corps and Protocol, for their assistance and efforts to accommodate the needs and interest of the diplomatic community in New York.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.