

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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SPEECH BY POLITICAL LIAISON SECRETARY,
 MINISTRY OF CULTURE, INCHE MOHD. BHAZALI
 ISMAIL, AT THE OPENING OF THE ORATORICAL
 CONTEST SPONSORED BY PERWANIT AT Ngee
 ANN COLLEGE, ON AUGUST 24, 1964 AT 7.30 P.M.

As a multi-racial country it is only right that Malaysia should have a common language as a means of uniting the various races. The Singapore Government is always striving to widen the use of the national language amongst the people in order to achieve this objective.

The Singapore Government has been making great efforts to achieve racial harmony and promote goodwill amongst the people. It is only when there is racial harmony that the various races can be strongly united and this will in turn give strength to our country Malaysia.

On his recent visit to Singapore, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tengku Abdul Rahman, suggested to the Singapore Government that a goodwill committee from amongst political parties be set up.

The government has already invited political parties in Singapore to get together to form such a committee, and the response so far has been encouraging.

Seven parties have written to me expressing their willingness to participate. They are: the P.A.P., the Singapore Alliance, Party Rakyat, the P.M.I.P., the United People's Party, ^{and} the M.C.A.,/the Malayan Indian Congress.

The aim of this inter-party goodwill committee is to help strengthen Malaysia internally by positively promoting inter-communal solidarity and countering the activities of mischievous elements intent on creating ill-will and tension between the various races in Malaysia.

AUGUST 24, 1964

(Time issued: 1530 hours)