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SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

SPEECH BY INCHE BUANG BIN OMAR JUNID, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, AT THE "SWITCH-ON" CEREMONY OF THE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM INSTALLED IN THE ARRIVALS BLOCK, PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING, SINGAPORE AIRPORT, ON THURSDAY, 18TH JAN. 1968

It is my privilege this morning to be amongst all of you gathered here to enjoy the coolness and comfort of this building which has been made possible by the installation of an air-conditioning system costing well over \$300,000/-.

During the past month you gentlemen would have read from the daily newspapers and heard over Radio and TV Singapura, the Parliamentary Budget proceedings and Government's emphasis on the importance of Singapore's industrialisation and the promotion of tourism in Singapore if the Republic is to attain a viable economy for its long term survival. To successfully achieve these, it is vital that the Airport has to plan for more and better amenities to keep track with this fast growing air transport industry. I am sure most of you who are actively engaged in the air transportation industry are fully aware of the Government's plan to further develop the Airport to ensure that it will safely and comfortably accommodate the increasing number of air travellers not only in the present sub-sonic air transportation era but also towards the future supersonic age.

I do not propose to dwell on each and every item of the development projects that had been approved but just to mention the few that are now in progress at the Airport and most significantly the completion of a project for which we are gathered here this morning to witness its operation. Looking out of this building on to the airfield towards the north you can hear the daily drone and see the incessant movement of bull-dozers, earth graders, rollers and a host of other forms of compacting vehicles engaged on the extension of the Runway from its present length of 9,000 ft. to 11,000 ft. in preparation for the future operations of jumbo jet giant aircraft and supersonic air transports that will be a common scene at this Airport in the early 1970s. Turning towards the south, you can view the newly raised roof structures of Hanger No. 5 and the new Annex to accommodate the second generation of jet aircraft, the Boeing 707s which our National Carrier, Malaysia Singapore Airlines have placed order, the first of which arrive in Singapore by the end of June, 1968. If we stretch our necks further to the south beyond

Hangar No.5, a new facilities building is being constructed for another established international airline in Singapore.

4. These projects when completed together with the expansion of the National Carrier's fleet of aircraft and increased air services will cater for the increasing number of industrialists, tourists and other air passengers to and from Singapore. Work on the air-conditioning of the Arrivals Block commenced in July of this year and from now onwards all passengers coming into Singapore will be able to enjoy the air-conditioned comfort in the Arrivals Hall whilst waiting for their clearance through the Health, Immigration and Customs formalities. This added amenity at the Airport for arriving passengers will no doubt enhance the international image of Singapore Airport and attract more tourists to our shores.

To those officials and workers who have laboured throughout the last few months to provide the air-conditioning comfort in this building I would like to thank them for the job well done. Before I proceed to the adjoining plant room to officially "switch on" the facility I would take this opportunity to wish all passengers, aircrews, Airport staff and all other users of this building many happy hours of air-conditioning comfort. Thank you

18TH JANUARY, 1968.

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