

**PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS ON**  
**THE EVE OF NATIONAL DAY, 1968**

They have been three remarkable years. On our own, we have done better than in any three previous years of our history. The performance improved each year. They reflect the success of a community where high performance is admired and rewarded.

In the last 12 months: Industrial output went up 12%. Domestic exports up 7%. External trade up 9%. Cargo handled up 15%. Income tax, at the same rates as last year's, up by 15%. Revenue from property tax up 7%, liquor up 8%, tobacco up 12%.

Public housing and construction up 16% -- 14,500 units in the last 12 months, or 1 unit every 36 minutes. Private construction up 27%.

Bank deposits as of June this year, against June last year, up 31%. 94% of the total old currency circulating in Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei have been redeemed. We have got over 35% of this, namely 460 million Singapore dollars.

Our rate of economic growth (increase in G.N.P.) has exceeded 9% per annum for the last 3 years. The natural population increase in 1967 was 2.1% and will probably go down to about 1.6% per annum. With economic growth kept above 9% per annum, this means ever rising standards.

You may ask, why then this tighter work discipline? Why this insistence on higher productivity? Why the new Employment Bill? The answer is: because we are looking ahead into 1971 and beyond. We must accelerate our economic growth to meet the growing redundancies and the full cut of British Service expenditure in the final phases of the rundown.

Our main problem has been, and will continue to be, large unemployment in spite of favourable economic growth. Despite a growth rate of over 9% last year, the number of new jobs in the industrial sector increased by only 5,700 compared with 5,200 the year before. We require at least 10,000 new jobs in industry to absorb our annual school leavers. In other words, the rate of expansion of industry must be doubled. And we have also to absorb the present heavy unemployment. 69,000 persons are registered with the Employment Exchange.

We must encourage a growing inflow of capital and expertise.

Industries will increase and expand if we combine the political stability we have with healthy and keen labour conditions. In 1961, 7 years ago, we had 116 strikes and we lost 420,000 man-days. Last year, 1967, we had only 10 strikes, and a loss of 41,000 man-days, 10% of the 1961 loss. This year, 1968, we have had only 2 strikes and a loss of only 700 man-days.

Because of the changes we have made in the Port of Singapore Authority, cutting out excessive overtime and introducing a third shift to work round the clock, we have given jobs to over 500 citizens, an increase of 10% in the wharf cargo work force. And the third shift has improved the economic attractiveness for ships calling on Singapore. So with Keppel Dockyard. Instead of one shift with excessive overtime, we shall be working 2 shifts. This will give jobs to 300 citizens to start with. Later, we may go on to a third shift. And in the public health division we shall give several hundreds of jobs by working in shifts right round the whole year, Sundays and public holidays included.

But more significant are the changed attitudes, and the positive outlook of our people. Singapore used to be a conglomeration of migrants, each man for himself. If he cared for anybody else at all, it was his own immediate family. Singaporeans now, particularly those born and educated here, are aware

that personal survival is not enough. What we have can be preserved only if we together defend the integrity of our country and secure the interests of the whole community.

The spontaneous and continuous contributions to the National Defence Fund reflect this wider and deeper feeling for group survival. True, \$6 million will only buy us three trainer jet planes. But when our labourers, trishaw-riders, taxi drivers, and barbers decide that they should make a personal contribution for the country's defence, then there has been a qualitative change. No longer are we just a selfish self-seeking lot of disparate and shortsighted migrants.

Perhaps the people who feel most keenly for Singapore are those who have visited or have lived in countries around Singapore. They no longer take for granted the kind of life they live in Singapore. When I visited Brunei recently, representatives of the Singapore Association of Brunei called on me. They had collected over \$1,000 from the small community of Singaporeans in Brunei for the National Defence Fund. They also wanted to know if they could buy flats on our new home ownership instalment plan. I assured them that they could. For they all intended to come back to Singapore when their work there

was completed. Most of them send their children back for schooling in Singapore.

And on my way back to Singapore as I flew over the large number of islands sparsely cultivated, I thought of the 300-400 illegal immigrants our Police and Immigration officers are arresting and turning back each month. These people have paid 200 to 300 Singapore dollars for a one-way illegal trip to be smuggled on to the beaches of Singapore.

We live in a troublesome part of the world. Great changes are taking place in and around us. But if we give of our best, and nothing less than our best will do, we can and we shall overcome the problems the future has in store for us.

Few countries in Asia or Africa have taken over from European colonial administrations, and improved on what they had. We have been able to do this because we have never been afraid to face up to our problems and to tackle them with vigour.

Everybody knows that Singaporeans are hard working, that they are shrewd in money matters. But some people doubted whether they have the doggedness and the toughness to stand up for themselves. When our first batch of National Servicemen were put through their paces, those in charge had doubts whether a soft and flabby urban community have got what it takes to make the grade. But word of the severity of the training soon got around. When the second batch was called up, Battalion commanders reported that the servicemen had already prepared themselves for what was coming, and were in much fitter condition. And the third batch was better still.

A new generation is growing up, more united, better educated and emotionally and psychologically prepared and equipped to meet the challenge of their time. You can see them in the schools. You can see them in the younger students at our universities. You can see them in our completely multi-racial National Service training centres. They are a different breed, self-reliant, bouncing with confidence, eager to learn, willing to work. They expect nothing for free. And there will be leaders amongst them able and strong enough to take the torch from us and to carry it forward to light up their future.

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Date : 8<sup>th</sup> August, 1968.

TABLE 1

PROGRESS OF MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS  
(Excluding rubber processing)

	Mid-1966	Mid-1967	Mid-1968	1966	1967
<u>Establishments with 10 or more workers</u>					
No. of establishments	-	1,186	1,350	1,123	1,250
Net increase/year	-	-	164	123	127
% increase/year	-	-	14%	12%	11%
No. of workers	-	55,300	61,000	52,807	58,800
Net increase/year	-	-	5,700	5,473	5,193
% increase/year	-	-	10%	12%	9%
Output (\$ Million)	1,240	1,488	1,800	1,326	1,650
Net increase/year (\$ Million)	190	248	312	240	324
% increase/year	18%	20%	21%	22%	24%
Census value added(\$ Million)	385	455	546	415	510
Net increase/year (\$ Million)	60	70	91	67	95
% increase/year	18%	18%	20%	19%	23%
Domestic Exports (\$ Million)	373	440	470		
Net increase/year (\$ Million)	51	67	30		
% increase/year	16%	18%	7%		

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TABLE 2

SINGAPORE EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS 1960-68  
(In \$ million)

	Imports	% Increase over previous year/month	Exports	% Increase over previous year/month	Total Trade	% Increase over previous year/month
(From January to December)						
1960	4,077.7	4.3	3,477.1	1.1	7,554.8	2.8
1961	3,963.3	-2.8	3,308.5	-4.8	7,271.8	-3.7
1962	4,035.9	1.8	3,416.7	3.3	7,452.6	2.5
1963	4,279.0	6.0	3,474.5	1.7	7,753.5	4.0
1964	3,478.8	-18.7	2,771.9	-20.2	6,250.7	-19.4
1965	3,807.2	9.4	3,004.1	8.4	6,811.3	9.0
1966	4,065.7	6.8	3,373.6	12.3	7,439.3	9.2
1967	4,406.4	8.4	3,490.5	3.5	7,896.9	6.2
1968 January	363.5	-0.2	279.1	-8.2	642.6	-3.9
February	410.7	13.0	294.8	5.6	705.5	9.8
March	415.9	1.3	315.2	6.9	731.1	3.6
April	377.2	-9.3	320.3	1.6	697.5	-4.6
May	487.3	29.2	324.5	1.3	811.8	16.4
From June 1966 to May 1967	4,195.7		3,406.9		7,602.6	
From June 1967 to May 1968	4,647.8	10.8	3,628.9	6.5	8,276.7	8.9

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TABLE 3

SINGAPORE CARGO DISCHARGED AND LOADED AT P.S.A.  
WHARVES AND "ROADS" 1960-1968  
(In thousand Freight Tons)

	Cargo Discharged	% Increase over previous year/month	Cargo Loaded	% Increase over previous year/month	Total Cargo Discharged & Loaded	% Increase over previous year/month
(From January to December)						
1960	9,602.4	5.2	5,287.4	4.2	14,889.8	4.8
1961	11,751.0	22.4	6,507.2	23.1	18,258.2	22.6
1962	13,403.6	14.1	7,663.5	17.8	21,067.1	15.4
1963	13,740.3	2.5	7,853.4	2.5	21,593.7	2.5
1964	11,882.1	-13.5	6,169.0	-21.4	18,051.1	-16.4
1965	13,360.0	12.4	7,980.3	29.4	21,340.3	18.2
1966	16,543.5	23.8	10,094.5	26.5	26,638.0	24.8
1967	18,397.3	11.2	11,943.0	18.3	30,340.3	13.9
1968 January	1,640.4	1.4	1,014.8	-1.7	2,655.2	0.2
February	1,608.1	-2.0	1,111.9	9.6	2,720.0	2.4
March	1,893.3	17.7	1,256.9	13.0	3,150.2	15.8
April	1,784.9	-5.7	1,055.2	-16.0	2,840.1	-9.8
From May 1966 to April 1967	17,061.8		10,670.2		27,732.0	
From May 1967 to April 1968	19,360.4	13.5	12,387.3	16.1	31,747.7	14.5

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TABLE 4

Commercial Bank Deposits, Singapore  
(of Customers other than Banks)

(In \$ Million)

1960 - 1968

As at the end of the month

	Demand Deposits	% Increase over previous year/month	Other Deposits	% Increase over previous year/month	Total Deposits	% Increase over previous year/month
1960 December	386.2	-6.6	462.4	14.9	848.6	4.0
1961 December	366.5	-5.1	526.3	13.8	892.8	5.2
1962 December	417.8	14.0	602.1	14.4	1,019.9	14.2
1963 December	442.8	6.0	649.2	7.8	1,092.0	7.1
1964 December	423.8	-4.3	713.4	9.9	1,137.2	4.1
1965 December	446.8	5.4	775.2	8.7	1,222.0	7.5
1966 December	520.3	16.5	891.8	15.0	1,412.1	15.6
1967 December	587.7	13.0	1,240.5	39.1	1,828.2	29.5
1968 January	571.3	-2.8	1,247.8	0.6	1,819.1	-0.5
February	579.9	1.5	1,284.1	2.9	1,864.0	2.5
March	603.6	4.1	1,314.7	2.4	1,918.3	2.9
April	604.7	0.2	1,357.6	3.3	1,962.3	2.3
May	598.0	-1.1	1,382.0	1.8	1,980.0	0.9
June	636.5	21.1	1,410.0	36.4	2,046.7	3.4
1966 June	456.2		841.8		1,298.0	
1967 June	525.7	15.2	1,034.0	22.8	1,559.7	20.2
1968 June	636.5	21.1	1,410.0	36.4	2,046.7	31.2

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TABLE 5REVENUE

Major Items of revenue collected by Inland Revenue Department and by Customs and Excise Department for the period July, 1967 to June 1968

I. Income Tax, Property Tax and Stamp Duty

Million Dollars

	July 1966 to June 1967 (a)	July 1967 to June 1968 (b)	Increase/ Decrease in revenue (b) - (a)	Percentage Increase/ Decrease
Income Tax	\$118.1m	\$135.4m	+\$17.3m	+14.65 (i)
Property Tax	\$73.6m	\$78.9m	+\$5.3m	+7.20 (ii)

(i) Increase is due to natural growth, increases in personal income, company profits and larger numbers of taxpayers.

(ii) Increase in collection is derived from increases in the number of properties assessed.

II. Customs and Excise Duties on Liquors, Tobacco and Petroleum

Million Dollars

	July 1966 to June 1967 (a)	July 1967 to June 1968 (b)	Increase/ Decrease in revenue (b) - (a)	Percentage Increase/ Decrease
Liquors	\$42.7m	\$45.9m	+\$3.2m	+7.5
Tobacco	\$44.8m	\$50.1m	+\$5.3m	+11.8
Petroleum	\$53.2m	\$55.0m	+\$1.8m	+3.4

P.U.B and Industrial users exempted from duty from November 67.

TABLE 6

SINGAPORE CONSTRUCTION STATISTICS

(a)	2-Year Period in Malaysia			2-Year Period post Malaysia				Previous 12 Months	
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
	July 1963 to July 1964	July 1964 to July 1965	% Increase of (c ) over (b)	July 1965 to July 1966	% Increase of (e) over (c )	July 1966 to July 1967	% Increase of (g) over (e)	July 1967 to July 1968	% Increase of (I) over (g)
<b>I. Public Sector</b>	\$	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
(i) Housing & Development Board	53,040,151.00	46,607,330.00	-12.1%	65,923,015.00	+41.4%	70,310,947.00	+6.7%	81,300,000.00	+15.7%
(ii) Public Works	20,305,835.00	25,905,279.00	+27.6%	28,530,177.00	+10.1%	33,020,389.00	+15.8%	43,410,823.00	+31.5%
(iii) Schools/Clinics	11,382,059.00	16,245,491.00	+42.7%	14,454,032.00	-11.0%	13,967,799.00	-3.4%	10,270,336.00	-26.5%
Sub-Total	\$84,728,045.00	\$88,758,100.00	4.8%	\$108,907,224.00	22.7%	\$117,299,135.00	7.7%	\$134,981,159.00	15.1%
<b>II. Private Sector</b>	\$	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Housing and Other Construction	31,020,000.00	35,610,000.00	14.8%	38,630,000.00	8.5%	50,930,000.00	31.9%	64,780,000.00	27.2%
Sub-Total	\$31,020,000.00	\$35,610,000.00	14.8%	\$38,630,000.00	8.5%	\$50,930,000.00	31.9%	\$64,780,000.00	27.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$115,748,045.00	\$124,368,100.00	7.4%	\$147,537,224.00	18.6%	\$168,229,135.00	14.0%	\$199,761,159.00	18.7%

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Table 7Singapore Redemption of Old Malayan Currency as on Monday, 5.8.68

(\$ Million)

Date	Singapore			Total Redeemed in S'pore, Malaysia and Brunei (cumulative)	Total Redeemed as % of Total Net Currency Issued*
	Amount Redeemed	Cumulative Total	Singapore Redemption as % of Total Redeemed		
5.8.68	0.019	512.145	35.12	1,458.456	94.38

\* Total Net Currency issued by the Board of Commissioners of Currency, Malaya and British Borneo is \$1,545,350,233.26.

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