

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT THE STATE BANQUET IN HONOUR OF HIS EXCELLENCY
THE PRIME MINISTER OF SINGAPORE AND MRS. LEE KUAN YEW
AT THE STATE PALACE MAY 25, 1973

Your Excellency the Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew:

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests:

Today is an historical day for the two close neighboring countries, Singapore and Indonesia. For the first time today the Prime Minister of Singapore visits Indonesia. On this occasion I and my wife feel honored to hold a state banquet this evening in honour of His Excellency the Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew. And, once again, permit me to take this opportunity to welcome to Indonesia His Excellency the Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew and the whole party, on behalf of the Government and the people of Indonesia. I also wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency the Prime Minister for accepting my invitation to visit this country.

Your Excellency the Prime Minister:

The geographical location of both our countries is very close. What we wish to bring closer are the spiritual, friendly and brotherly relations between the two neighbouring nations. Your Excellency's present visit does reflect an equally strong desire of the two nations in that direction.

The historical and cultural backgrounds of the two peoples may be different. Our national problems and priorities may differ. However, the desire to achieve our higher aspirations has made us conscious of the great need to promote sincere cooperation and mutual assistance, and together advance the welfare of our respective peoples in a common region of peace and tranquility.

We are glad that we already have a distinct platform for those ideals, namely the Association of South East Asian Nations of which both our countries are members, together with the other neighbouring countries, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines. Our Association which forms the forum for economic, social and cultural cooperation while retaining our national identities and sovereignties, in fact reflects the spirit and future of a new South East Asia. It is the determination of the peoples of South East Asia to combine their potentials and take the future in their own hands, preserving peace and strengthening stability in

this region. And they will not let their future be decided by another power from without which often disregards and conflicts with the interests of the peoples in this region. Such a new South East Asia will positively contribute to peace in Asia and the world in general.

It stands to reason that cooperation among the nations of South East Asia is not merely a desire but a necessity. Perhaps we ought to realize from the outset that the birth of a new South East Asia will take some time; it needs an ever present will and relentless efforts in order to broaden every possible form of cooperation. It also requires the willingness on our part to synchronize our short-term national objectives with the long-term common objectives which will reinforce our relations while removing historical and psychological obstacles that stand in the way.

Our Association has begun to bear physical results and what is more, we can openly exchange views in an atmosphere of mutual trust when facing world problems. All this forms a great asset to enhance and give substance to the Association of South East Asian Nations which will build the image of South East Asia in the future.

Economic development which is presently the focus of attention and efforts of the Indonesian people may be viewed within the context of that far

reaching objective, beside being an endeavour to raise the welfare of the Indonesian people themselves. At present it is the main road towards an advanced and socially just society which is the ideal of our national independence. Like political independence, progress and welfare ultimately depend upon the determination and ability of each nation. At the same time Indonesia is aware of the great significance of assistance and cooperation between nations to improve the standards of prosperity and justice of all the nations in the worlds. In this relation it is pertinent that there be a new spirit and objectives of economic assistance and cooperation as a great endeavor of all mankind to build a new world community which is more peaceful, more advanced, more prosperous and more just than the one we are witnessing now. Without that new spirit and those goals, economic relations between nations will only seek short-term objectives which often confront men and nations with one another.

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Your Excellency the Prime Minister:

With a view to a new South East Asia in the future, it is gratifying to us in Indonesia to see the rapid economic and social progress that has been attained in Singapore, accompanied by the efforts of nation building on the foundation of Singapore's own identity.

Your Excellency's leadership, perseverance and love for the people of Singapore are no doubt a key factor of Singapore's progress and public welfare at the present stage.

Universal brotherhood and equality of man, and Singapore's aspirations to foster democracy, peace, progress, justice and equality run parallel to the Pancasila philosophy of the Indonesian people which embraces belief in God, humanity, nationalism, democracy and social justice. This similarity of ideals is a firm foundation for friendship and sincere cooperation between both our peoples and countries. The realization of friendship and cooperation is further emphasized by the signing of the Border Agreement on Territorial Waters by both our Foreign Ministers this afternoon.

I presume that Your Excellency will share my opinion when I say that the talks we had this afternoon in an amicable and open way will have a significant bearing upon the friendship and cooperation between our two countries and nations.

Similarly, the visit of Your Excellency, Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew and party to Indonesia this time, brief as it is, will nevertheless be noted as an important step to substantiate the friendly relations between the two countries.

In conclusion, may I invite you all to raise your glasses and drink to the health of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency the Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew and to the welfare and glory of the country and people of Singapore.

Thank you.

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