

**TRANSCRIPT OF REMARKS BY FOREIGN MINISTER  
PROFESSOR S JAYAKUMAR ON RECLAMATION ISSUE**

Q: "Minister, Malaysia has launched its application for provisional measures against Singapore concerning reclamation. Wasn't it the case that both sides are actually talking about? What's this application about?"

Prof Jayakumar: "First, let me say that, of course, Malaysia has the legal right to invoke the arbitration procedure under the UN Law of the Sea Convention and they also have the right to apply for provisional measures. But the manner in which they have done so, we find rather strange and discomfiting because, as you know, we have waited for a long time for them to give us the reports and studies to show why our reclamation has caused a problem for them. It took them more than a year to give us this information and reports and finally, we got them on July 4 and when they sent it to us, at the same time, they also served notice to us that they're referring it to arbitration and gave us a two-week ultimatum to stop work.

"Well, we responded by giving them all the information and reports to assure them that our reclamation does not have the effects that they alleged and we also proposed that both sides meet and, in fact, they accepted the invitation and in mid-August, 13, 14 August, experts and officials from both sides met. In fact, they had a very good meeting, but that meeting showed that further discussions and meetings were necessary. As recently as late August, further documents and reports were exchanged by both sides. So, in other words, both sides were in the process of discussions and talks. The talks had just begun and both sides were exchanging and examining each other's documents. So, in the midst of all this, they have suddenly decided to go to the International Law of the Sea Tribunal and apply for provisional measures.

"As you know -- and this, we have said -- Singapore is a very small country. Land is scarce and reclamation is necessary for our survival and future development, but we have always ensured that whatever reclamation we do is within our territorial waters and we always ensured that our reclamation is within our rights and obligations under international law. Well, we'd very much prefer to have negotiations and an amicable solution, but they have now decided to take this route and, as I've said, it's their right. We will, of course, now present our case and our view before the International Law of the Sea Tribunal, which I expect to meet very soon in a matter of weeks.

"I have every full confidence in the team that we have assembled. It comprises experts and officials from the Attorney-General's Chambers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Development. We have capable foreign experts and foreign counsel and I should also inform you that our team is led by

Ambassador Tommy Koh who, as you know, was the President of the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea and is an expert in that area. Thank you."

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