STATEMENT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

The Prime Minister submitted his and his government's resignation to President S R Nathan at 10.00am today. The President has accepted the resignations, which will take effect immediately before the new Prime Minister is appointed on 12 August 2004. The Prime Minister's letter and the President's reply are attached.

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PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
SINGAPORE

10 August 2004

National Archives of Singapore

Prime Minister
Singapore

10 August 2004

Mr S R Nathan
President of the Republic
of Singapore

Dear President,

As you are aware, I started planning for leadership self-renewal soon after I became Prime Minister in November 1990. Mr Lee Kuan Yew ensured a smooth transfer of authority to me and I am emulating his example to provide political stability and continuity for Singapore.

After I told my Cabinet colleagues that I was ready to step aside, after nearly 14 years as Prime Minister, the PAP Members of Parliament met on 28 May 2004 to elect my successor. They unanimously elected Mr Lee Hsien Loong. Mr Lee's election was subsequently endorsed by the PAP Central Executive Committee on 29 May 2004.

Mr Lee has been my Deputy Prime Minister for as long as I have been Prime Minister. He is ready to take over the helm of Singapore.

In accordance with Article 26(1)(a) of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore, I hereby tender my resignation and that of my government. Our resignations are to take effect immediately before the new Prime Minister is appointed on 12 August 2004.

I now formally advise you to call upon Mr Lee Hsien Loong, who commands the confidence of the majority of Members of Parliament, to form the next government.

Yours sincerely,

GOH CHOK TONG

PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

10 August 2004

Mr Goh Chok Tong
Prime Minister

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 10 August tendering your resignation as Prime Minister and that of your Government. As you have indicated, this change will take effect when your successor is appointed. On your advice, I shall be calling on Mr Lee Hsien Loong who enjoys the confidence of the majority of Members of Parliament to form the next Government.

I speak for the people of Singapore in thanking you for having given so much of yourself these 14 years as you rallied our people and made them proud of their achievements. Singapore has changed from when you took over in 1990. With your inimitable ways you earned the people's trust, addressed their concerns and priorities and made them feel they were participating in making Singapore better. You enabled Singapore to thrive and grow. During your tenure, you confronted unanticipated problems of crises proportions that had serious implications for the national good. You initiated difficult but necessary polices and rallied the people to overcome the challenges.

You introduced new programmes to equalize opportunities for our people like Edusave, Medifund, Lifelong Learning Endowment Fund, ElderCare Fund and the upgrading of HDB flats. Through the allocation of New Singapore Shares and Economic Restructuring Shares, you made Singaporeans appreciate that they were sharing in the progress and prosperity that your Government had brought about.

You have also built a successor team to take on the reins of Government when you step down as Prime Minister. The successful transition which you have now effected will certainly remind those who follow you of the importance of continuing such a preparation, as orderly transition is important for the continued stability and progress of Singapore.

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ISTANA
SINGAPORE

I note that Mr Lee Hsien Loong intends to appoint you as Senior Minister. This will certainly enable him and his Ministers to benefit from your advice drawn from your long experience, as Singapore embarks on the next phase of its history.

Yours Sincerely

S R NATHAN

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