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MR. FRANCIS THOMAS'S SPEECH
AT PAN-AMERICAN OPENING

Speaking at the opening of the Singapore District Sales Office of Pan-American Airways this morning, the Minister for Communications and Works, Mr. Francis Thomas, said that in history, trade and civilization had developed together. And the development of trade was an essential part of the development of Asia in the 20th century.

It was in this way that Singapore had made, and would continue to make, its most vital contribution.

Mr. Thomas said Singapore now was at the most dramatic and crucial point of its life both in time and in geography.

Singapore had been created because of the help she could give to others and when she ceased to be useful to its neighbours she would cease to exist as a great commercial centre.

The Minister declared that every proof of Singapore's continued value was welcome and the opening of the new Pan-American offices this morning could be taken as a sign that Singapore was looking to the future and was not living in the past.

Singapore, he added, was grateful for another link with other countries which showed her on the map of the world in trade, travel and tourism.

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