

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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EMBARGOED TILL AFTER DELIVERY, PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, DR. GOH KENG SWEE,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF FEDERAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
(S'PORE) LTD., ON THURSDAY, 23RD APRIL 1964 AT 5.00 P.M.

This factory, as you all know, produces Monosodium Glutamate, a formidable word for a common product which is used for flavouring food. The Chinese are fond of it and you will find constant reference to Monosodium Glutamate in all Chinese cookery books.

On the occasion of the formal opening of this plant, I am struck by one thought concerning Indonesia's confrontation on Malaysia. We, who are being confronted, are improving our standard of living, and getting more enjoyment out of life, in which, of course, good eating is one important item. Singapore uses more than a million lbs of M.S.G. a year and now we are able to produce all we need. While we go from strength to strength, those who confront us and desire to bring about our ruin are themselves getting into dire trouble. Confrontation has brought on the confronters the suffering which they hoped to inflict upon us. In Indonesia, people do not think of using Monosodium Glutamate. They have been reduced to eating corn instead of rice.

While we can sympathise with the plight of the Indonesian people, we can show no sympathy for their misguided leaders who have brought them to such a terrible plight. It is my earnest hope that sanity will return to the governing circles of Ineonesia and that they will accept the progressive economic policies that has brought about growth and prosperity in our State.

Going back to this major industrial venture, I have three observations to make. I understand that the Company intends to enter into an expansion programme under which it will produce,

in addition to M.S.G., two important chemicals - anhydrous sodium sulphate and crystalline sodium sulphate. These are basic chemicals which are used in the production of powdered detergents which in itself is the basis for another new industry in Singapore.

My second remark concerns the quality of the product of Federal Chemical. Last month, the Singapore Industrial Research Unit conducted laboratory tests on seven brands of imported M.S.G. and compared them with the product turned out by this Factory. You will be pleased to learn that only one of the imported brands measured up to the product of the Singapore factory, the other six being markedly inferior. The countries of origin of these imported products are America, Hong Kong, Formosa, Japan and Mainland China. This achievement of Federal Chemical is a matter for congratulation.

My third comment bring good news to the Company. Federal Chemical Industries are now in a position to supply our local market with a product of a quality equal to the best we get from outside. There is therefore, no need to depend on imported M.S.G. For some time, the import of M.S.G. has been subject to specific licensing and we allowed a quota of 100%. As from next month, I intend to reduce this imported quota to half. In due course, the Government will recommend to the Tariff Advisory Board that this product receives common market treatment so that it can have a protected market for the whole of Malaysia.

It is my great pleasure to declare this new factory open and I wish both management and workers a successful and prosperous future.

APRIL 22nd, 1964.
