

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC. MAY. 30/64 (FIN)

EMBARGOED TILL AFTER DELIVERY
PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SPEECH BY THE FINANCE MINISTER, DR. GOH
KENG SWEE, AT THE OPENING OF THE LIGHT
INDUSTRIES SERVICE UNIT ON SUNDAY, 17TH
MAY, 1964 AT 5.00 P.M.

The anti-national pro-Indonesia left claim that the Singapore Government favours big industries and foreign companies and neglects small industries operated by our citizens. As usual their accusation is groundless. The opening of the Light Industries Services clearly shows that the Singapore Government has the interests of the small local enterprises very much at heart.

Briefly, the purpose of the Light Industries Services is to help the 2,000 or more light industries in Singapore to expand and to achieve greater efficiency. L.I.S. can help them in five ways, namely, through the extension of loans and hire-purchase arrangements for the acquisition of better equipment, through advice on layout, production technique, product designing and standardization; through management training including training in simple accounting, costing, stores management, etc., through guidance in advertising, packaging, and marketing, and through assistance in getting new sites where this is needed.

The assistance which L.I.S. can provide to light industries should be of great value to small enterprises. However, for more complicated technological problems the L.I.S. has recourse to the Industrial Research Unit which is located in this same building. The I.R.U. also has facilities to repair instrument, and to carry out tests on products and raw materials.

The Singapore Government is also operating an Industrial Development Scholarship scheme to provide local staff of industries with advanced technical training in the State or in overseas universities and technical schools. Under this scheme the Government meets half the total cost of training and the beneficiary industries pay the other half. Details of the scheme are available at the Public Service Commission. So there are three separate ways in which the Government is assisting local small industries in addition of course to what the Economic Development Board is doing. It is absurd to say that local industrialists are being neglected in favour of overseas industrialists.

In the establishment of the L.I.S. the Singapore Government is indebted to the United Nations Special Fund for its donation of some \$1.7 million over five years, and to the International Labour Organisation for its services as Executing Agency.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to invite light industries in Singapore to make full use of the various facilities which the Government has provided. I now have great pleasure in declaring the Light Industries Services open.

MAY 15, 1964.

(Time issued: 1930 hours)