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SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

SPEECH BY MR. S. RAMASWAMY, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (LAW) AND M.P. FOR POTONG PASIR ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION, 1968 FOR THE ALJUNIED, MACPHERSON AND POTONG PASIR CONSTITUENCIES ON 7.8.68 AT 7.30 P.M. AT THE SENNETT COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Tonight we are here to celebrate our 3rd year of Independence. This is an appropriate moment for us to look back and review our performance since we obtained independence. Over the past three years, our Republic has progressed rapidly in all fields of development. This was possible, despite the lack of any natural resources, because we managed our affairs ingeniously and applied our skills and knowhow with intensity to the problems which faced us. As a result we solved the teething-troubles of Independence, and laid the foundation for a viable state which today is accepted as a haven for investments from abroad.

However, we cannot afford to rest on our achievements. No doubt, we have successfully met the challenges of the past three years. But the coming years are going to be more crucial and will put all of us to an even greater test. With the withdrawal of the British, we have to face enormous problems. We have not only to quickly build-up our own defence, but also develop our economy to counter the effects of unemployment on our people.

All this requires from us greater endeavour and a capacity to give of our best. We have demonstrated this capacity before when we moved among the prophets who said that we cannot survive on our own.

Now it is time for us to display with even more conviction the same activities we have shown before. Let us therefore resolve to work harder, to put nation before self and keep the objective of a disciplined and cohesive society always before us.

7TH AUGUST, 1968.

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