

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT.

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SPEECH OF MR. YONG NYUK LIN, MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS FOR SINGAPORE AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE 16TH INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION (ICAO) ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD AT BUENOS AIRES ON TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 1968
WEDNESDAY 4TH

I consider it a great privilege and honour to represent and speak, on behalf of the Government and people of Singapore, at this the 16th Assembly meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) which is being held in this fair city of Buenos Aires and which is situated more than half way round the world for us in Singapore.

2. After Singapore became independent in August 1965 and having subscribed to the Convention on International Civil Aviation in May 1966, we were then formally admitted into membership of ICAO, a month later. As ICAO Assembly meetings are being held only once in 3 years, this is therefore our maiden appearance.

3. Although Singapore is probably the smallest Member State of ICAO, with a population of 2 million people living on an island of just over 200 square miles, we are, however, most fortunately placed in the heart of the rich and populous region of South-East-Asia, thus becoming its communication hub, whether by sea, air, cable or radio.

4. Our port already ranks 4th in the world, in respect of tonnage of shipping entering or leaving port. As many as 200 shipping lines run scheduled services through Singapore. In the field of civil aviation, 22 international airlines make regular scheduled stops, at our airport. Last year (1967), nearly 1 million passengers and 9 million kilos of freight were handled at our airport. We are now planning for the Jumbo jets and supersonic aircrafts to land at Singapore airport. Cable/radio communication traffic through Singapore is easily the highest in the region, and we have decided to build an Earth Satellite Station to be operational by 1970, to keep abreast with the times.

5. Although Singapore's direct association with ICAO is only for a short period of just two years, yet we have already participated in technical assistance programmes under the auspices of ICAO and/or the Colombo Plan by providing training facilities in subjects like air traffic control, aeronautical telecommunications, airport fire services and aeronautical information services for Member States ~~like Cambodia, Ceylon, Ethiopia, Iraq, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand.~~

6. In conclusion, let me state that Singapore fully supports the noble aims and objectives of ICAO and that we will continue to give ICAO our fullest cooperation, so that international civil aviation can be further fostered and developed to bring about greater friendship, harmony and understanding amongst nations and peoples of the world.