

Singapore Government

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**SPEECH BY PRESIDENT C V DEVAN MAIR AT A STATE DINNER
HOSTED IN HONOUR OF HE MR NICOLAE CEAUSESCU,
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA, AND
HE MADAME ELENA CEAUSESCU AT THE ISTANA
WEDNESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 1982**

On behalf of the people and Government of Singapore, it gives me pleasure to welcome you, Mdm Ceausescu and your distinguished delegation to the Republic of Singapore.

Mr President, your visit marks a new milestone in Romanian-Singapore relations and will strengthen existing ties between our countries. Although Romania and Singapore have different social and political systems, it is gratifying to note that our countries have a similar approach to many international issues.

Both our countries are committed to genuine non-alignment. Like Romania, Singapore believes that international relations should be conducted in accordance with the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

Unfortunately, Mr President, not all countries share our commitment to the fundamental tenets of international law.

Despite the condemnation of the international community, foreign forces remain in illegal occupation of Cambodia and other countries. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of these countries have been violated with brutal cynicism. The right of the peoples of these countries to self-determination has been trampled upon, and they have been subjected to regimes imposed by naked force of arms.

Such situations constitute a threat to all of us. Unless international relations are conducted in accordance with international law, we will not be able to thrive or to pursue our respective national destinies. Indeed, when such principles are flouted, the very existence of small nations like our own is endangered.

Mr President2/-

Mr President, by steadfastly refusing to acquiesce in such violations of the United Nations Charter and by demanding a just political solution to these problems, we can contribute to the restoration of stability to this region and to other disturbed regions of the world. We can help to reinforce and further strengthen the international will to isolate and punish aggressors, and thereby enhance the security of all small countries.

In this regard, let me express Singapore's appreciation of the support that Romania has given to the legitimate rights of the Cambodian people. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I now invite you to join me in a toast to the health and well being of President Ceausescu, Madam Ceausescu and the distinguished delegation from the Socialist Republic of Romania.
