31 AUGUST 1957

MESSAGE TO FEDERATION OF MALAYA ON ATTAINMENT OF MERDEKA

August 31st marks a turning point in the history of Malaya. The era of colonial rule is gone. Merdeka is ours and with it the right to do what we will of our own country and our own lives. Let us all resolve to work hard together to build a happy and prosperous Malaya, to remove ignorance and poverty by education and production and to establish a more just social order where every man is judged on his merits and his contribution to society.

National Archives of Singapore

LEE KUAN YEW