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TEXT OF A BROADCAST OVER RADIO SINGAPORE

BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. LEE KUAN YEW,

ON JANUARY, 1, 1960 AT 7.10 P.M.

From time immemorial man has counted time by the seasons. And whether he counted them by the waxing and waning of the moon, or by the sun, the yearly cycle of the four seasons has always symbolised the beginning and end of a complete cycle of time. The 1st of January has not always been accepted as the start of a new year. The different ancient civilisations of Asia had their own various calendars. Hence the different new year's day for the Chinese, the Muslims, the Hindus and so on. But as the world shrinks with the volume and speed of communications, the 1st of January has come to be generally accepted for reasons of convenience and uniformity as the start of a new year.

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And from time immemorial man has always ushered in the new year with joy and festivity, and firm resolve to do better in the new year than was achieved in the old. And so with every year in men's minds we turn over and write on a new leaf. The smudges and blots of the last page are best forgotten as we close it, and we make new year resolutions to keep the new page neat and tidy. Only the happy and credit items are carried forward.

The first half of 1959 were months of excitement and uncertainty. Everyone knew and felt that change was in the air. Everybody marked time while they waited to see what was to happen. The second half was the aftermath, as fears proved largely unfounded and hopes not completely realised.

But by the end of the old year the heat and dust had settled. The shape of things to come has become clearer. Not all are strange shapes. A good number of the good things in the past still find their places in the future. If 1959 was a year of decisive change, let 1960 be a year of consolidation. After seven months of the PAP since June 1959, everyone has had the measure of the Government, and the Government the measure of its problems. The past is over and done with. Some may be sorry to see it gone. Others rejoice at the changes that have been made. And there will be more changes still in the future. For the cycle of life always moves forward. The past is gone except in men's memories.

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Let us look forward to progress in the year ahead. Through hard work, faith and a little good fortune, may 1960 bring more happiness to more of us. Let us all make this our resolution for the New Year: to stop fretting and grumbling and doubting - to get on with the job in hand - do it well and the future will look after itself. In that time honoured phrase, let us wish and will ourselves a happy and prosperous New Year.

DECEMBER 31, 1959 (Time issued 1235 hours)

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