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TEXT OF A SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER,

MR. LEE KUAN YEW, ON ARRIVAL AT JAKARTA

ON JANUARY 19, 1960.

The Honourable the First Minister of

the Republic of Indonesia, Saudara Haji

Djuanda, Honourable Ministers and friends:

I thank you for the warm welcome extended to me by the Government and people of Indonesia. I would like to convey to the great people of Indonesia the friendly greetings of the people of Singapore.

But for the accidental divisions of the European colonial empires, the history of Malaya, Singapore and Indonesia might well have been more closely knit. The Portuguese, the Dutch, the British and the French, they came to South-East Asia and divided it up amongst themselves, much in the fashion of modern gangsters who demarcate their respective territorial jurisdictions over a city. Geography they condemned. And the course of history they distorted. During that colonial era, the links between Jakarta and Amsterdam, between Singapore

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and London were closer than the links between Jakarta and Singapore. Such where the absurdities of European colonial domination.

That era, the dark ages of Asia, is slowly disappearing into the limbo of the past. But it may take some time before we can completely rectify or eradicate the evils of the past. Your great country had nurtured a high level of civilisation in the past. Borobudur and the relics of the Hayam Wuruk and Gajah Mada governments are traces of a golden age. Your struggle against the Dutch to establish your independence was a source of inspiration for the nationalists in Singapore. And we watch with even greater interest your efforts to make up for past decades of stagnation under Dutch colonial exploitation.

You are our great neighbour. You have asserted your right to independence 14 years ago. We are a small country and we have yet to rid ourselves of the last vestiges of colonial domination. But, as we emerge from the stupor of the colonial era, we must renew our links and our friendship with our neighbours. I bring you the goodwill and fraternal greetings of the people of Singapore. Seven days are but a short time to see so rich and varied a country as yours. But this visit which you have so kindly arranged for us should open the way for closer understanding and co-operation between Indonesia and Singapore.

JANUARY, 19, 1960.

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