SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT M.C. FE.55/60/TTS

TEXT OF THE BROADCAST BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. LEE KUAN YEW, INAUGURATING THE SHORTWAVE SERVICE OF RADIO SINGAPORE ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1960 AT 9.10 P.M.

Tonight we put Radio Singapore on short wave. For the first time since Radio Singapore was started just over two years ago, we can be heard by your friends and neighbours in the Federation of Malaya, Indonesia and the Borneo territories of Sarawak, Brunei and British North Borneo. Up to two years ago, these same transmitters in Singapore were broadcasting Radio Malaya, then a pan-Malayan department running the broadcasting services of both Singapore and the Federation of Malaya. Since then, the Federation has become an independent sovereign nation. And we in Singapore have become a separate internally self-governing State. Radio Singapore on short wave is a belated recognition of the changing pattern of governments in Malaya.

National Archives of Singapore

In an age when distances have shrunk with the increasing speed of mass transport and communications, it helps to get to know our neighbours better, and to get them to know us. What is happening in our respective countries? What

are our respective views of the events taking place in the larger world around us? All the big nations of the world have raised their voices to be heard throughout the world. The big countries have big transmitters to carry their voices across the oceans and the continents. Theirs are powerful voices, less to make friends, than to influence people. We are a small country with a not so powerful voice, more to make friends than to influence people.

In inaugurating Radio Singapore's short wave service, we raise our own voice in the symphony of South-East Asia. It is a modest beginning: from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Malayan time; one hour in each of the four languages - Tamil, Chinese, Malay and English in that order. Every evening we hope to entertain our neighbours with the music and drama of the various cultures that make up Singapore, and in between, to tell you what is happening in Singapore and why it is happening, and also how we see and interpret what is happening in the world around us. As from tonight, you can listen to Radio Singapore on the 62-metre band.

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