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TEXT OF A SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR.LEE KUAN YEW, AT THE BANQUET GIVEN IN HONOUR OF THE RIGHT HON'BLE WALTER NASH, PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND ON FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1960.

I have great pleasure this evening in formally welcoming you to Singapore.

New Zealand is a country with a good reputation in race relations. It is also an example of the successful working of the system of government based on the principle of 'one citizen one vote'. Parliamentary democracy has fallen into considerable difficulties in Southeast Asia in part as a result of the stupidities of some of its adherents. It is therefore good to recall that in other parts of the Pacific it is still working and progressing. If parliamentary democracy is not to become a term of abuse, then there must be more and more examples of its successful working amongst the Asian nations.

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You have come to visit us at a time when our future forms of government are very much in the balance. Whatever the reason, if in working the system of one man one vote, the people are unable to create a more prosperous, just and equal society, then they must try other forms. But so far, so good. For some three years now in the Federation of Malaya, and for about a year in Singapore, the system has worked to some advantage. But that is not to say that we have any illusions over the tremendous gap we have to bridge before we can say we are safely away. We have the highest average national income in Asia - $ 1,200 per capita per annum. But it is not good enough an economic or social base to mount a liberal and tolerant political system. Your average national income at $3,600 per capita per annum is three times ours. If we can make the grade and create a similarly comfortable society, then we can be more confident that the other human values of a tolerant democracy will be desired and cherished by our people.

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In an age when it is the fashion to measure everything from beauty to prosperity in figures, it might be amusing to compare your natural endowments with ours. New Zealand: 2.3 million people, 104,000 square miles, $3,600 average annual income. Singapore: 1.6 million people, 224 square miles or 0.2% of New Zealand's, $1,200 annual income. I have a feeling, that before very long

we shall be a bigger people than New Zealanders, if bigness were measured in the number of heads. However, despite modern science and technology, we cannot expand our land reclamation. But we can and must, through science, technology, industry and hard work, try to reach your level of prosperity.

On my party's assumption of office, you sent me a telegram of congratulations in which you said you felt sure that the valuable co-operation which our two countries had enjoyed in the Colombo Plan and in other fields would be maintained and expanded. I think we should extend our co-operation to exchanging your secret formula on how to improve our vital statistics.

After dinner, on a more or less public occasion, is neither the time or place to ask you, Sir, the secret of your country's magnificant figures. But tomorrow morning in the privacy of a conference room, you can be sure that our Minister for Finance, will try to ferret out your secret. On our part, we can offer you the secret of a rapidly increasing population, and having the world's highest population increase of 4% per annum, we should be well qualified to advise on this.

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Finally, may I say how happy we are to receive you and to show you our little island which has the biggest port in South Asia. After your all too brief

visit, I hope you will depart with more understanding and perhaps a little more sympathy for those democratic socialists who are working in an economically underdeveloped but politically fully developed situation. May you advance even further on the road to a more prosperous, just and equal society.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I ask you to rise and join me in the toast to New Zealand.

APRIL 8, 1960. (Time issued 1600 hours)

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