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SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER MR. LEE KUAN YEW'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE FOURTH MALAYSIA SOLIDARITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD IN SINGAPORE ON 1ST FEBRUARY, 1962.

Mr. Chairman Your Excellency and Honourable Delegates -

This is the fourth meeting of the Malaysia Solidarity Consultative Committee. We meet today under slightly different circumstances. For in the three weeks since we left Kuala Lumpur, some interesting developments have taken place.

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Hitherto, there had been no organised opposition at all to Malaysia, either within our five territories or in the other countries around us. Now it is apparent that the so-called "socialist" groups in the Federation in Singapore and Sarawak have a clear directive from interested parties outside Malaya and to organise opposition in Malaysia.

If it were only the forces within Malaysia trying to oppose Malaysia for Malaysia for Malaysian reasons, the position would be much simpler. But when the opposition within Malaysia is merely an off-shoot of a wider and bigger conspiracy, then it would be wise for us to take note of it and prepare for possible further developments. These developments underline the words of the communique we issued after our meeting in Kuala Lumpur, unanimously issued with the consent of all delegates present, that it is vital to accomplish our task as soon as possible, and before international circumstances in this part of the world change radically to make possible more direct intervention and interference by outsiders in our affairs.

When we set out as a Committee on our task, the objectives were two-fold, first, to give definition and shape to Malaysia, and second, to speed its realisation.

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Our first objective is nearly accomplished, for in three meetings in Jesselton, Kuching and Kuala Lumpur, we have defined the important areas where local interests were to prevail, and the remaining areas where the need for an effective and efficient Central Government demanded a unified Federal administration. All that remains for us at this conference is to gather the points on

which there was broad agreement as to the constitutional balances between the powers of Central and State governments in a Federation of Malaysia.

Our second objective to quicken the realisation of Malaysia has also to a large extent been realised.

I understand that the Commission which is to go out to North Borneo and Sarawak will be arriving in Singapore on the 17th of February on its way to Sarawak and Sabah a few days later. So the acceleration of events will go on until Malaysia is established.

It is as well that we consolidate our work. That this session in Singapore will be a successful one is reasonably certain. Just before our conference in Kuala Lumpur began, delegates will recall that a Sarawak political party dissociated itself from our deliberations and conclusions of our meetings beforehand because it anticipated progress being made. This time Singapore's Barisan Sosialis is not allowing its delegates to attend. We shall all miss Mr. Bani. His interjections both timely and untimely, both in Kuching and in Kuala Lumpur have been so useful in bringing the point home to all of us in Malaysia.

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It is a pity that the Communist front conference in Kuala Lumpur recently, at which Barisan Sosialis was a moving spirit, had denounced Malaysia as anti-Indonesia and condemned this Committee as consisting of people who only represented themselves and British interests.

I am sure members will want to join with me in sending our formal sympathies to Mr. Bani for the quite unjustified censure that has been passed on him by the K.L. Communist Front conference when in fact he had been trying so hard for them.

After hearing the frank and forthright speeches made by the leaders of the delegations from Borneo, I am now certain that there is something about the salubrious air of Singapore which dispels reticence and inhibitions and reduces occasions such as this to polite and futile exchange of pleasantries. We have all bared our hearts, our problems and conflicts, our hopes and aspirations. The internal political problems of each one of us is the deep concern of all. For if anyone of us were to be undermined, then all would be imperilled. I am glad that we have made no apologies for telling all of the aches and pains that we all are afflicted with from time to time and comparing notes on the best local herbs and charms on how best to exercise the evil spirits who delight in inflicting these aches and pains on honest men who refuse to sell their souls to the devil.

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However, the first phase when we as representative members of our five legislatures and leaders of opinion in our different territories have come together to seek the largest measure of common ground is now nearly over.

Our task in the next two days after clearing any remaining item to put in clear written form the many things discussed and broad agreement reached during all the four meetings held since the Malaysia Solidarity Consultative Committee was set up by the Sarawak and North Borneo leaders after the C.P.A. regional conference here in July last year.

I am happy that we shall have the same assistance in this work of written composition as we received in oral exposition from our friends from Sabah and Sarawak. Particularly valuable of course would be the picturesque turn of phase of our friends from the Rejang and Baram rivers, as when they asked whether Malaysia would be like the sugar cane sweeter at the roots than at the further end, or like beer uniformly bitter from the top to the bottom of the bottle.

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As a result of such vivid if somewhat blunt questions, we now have a firm assurance that, like the Malaysian durian, all the seeds are uniformly delicious though some compartments have eleven seeds and others only one seed.

Finally, may I on behalf of the Singapore delegation, extend to you all a warm welcome and wish you a happy stay. As I have said before, all roads to Malaysia must pass through Singapore, and we shall do our best to make this passage pleasant, interesting and eventful.

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