PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH ON NATIONAL DAY,

3RD JUNE, 1963.

All of us in the five territories have staked our lives and our future on Malaysia and succeed it must.

Singapore used to be thought of by some people as a liability to Malaysia, but slowly these people are beginning to understand the truth that far from being a liability, it is in fact an asset.

Without Singapore and her bases, Malaysia cannot be defended. Whatever the mutual defence pacts there may be, if tomorrow we were to obliterate Singapore from the map of Malaysia, then the sinews with which Malaysia can be defended would be destroyed.

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So too would go the tremendous economic potentials – our fine harbours, airport, telecommunications network, and the commercial, financial and industrial complex. These are the economic factors in Singapore which will help Malaysia become a modern industrialised nation. We have a contribution to make, not only in dollars or percentages of our revenue, but also a contribution to the rapid

industrial growth of Malaysia, the building up of technical skills and managerial talent that can bring a better life to all in Malaysia from people in the towns as well as those in the kampongs. If these potentials are utilized, then not only will Singapore prosper, but the rest of Malaysia will also prosper. For when official attitudes of the Central Government change and they accept that these economic potentials must be used, then it is our duty to share our prosperity with all the other States, so that all can develop and prosper.

There is another field where we in Singapore can make a significant contribution to the future of Malaysia. Ours is a politically sophisticated urban society. Through the turbulent years of the last decade, w have been nurtured in the democratic practice. We have learnt to objure communal issues and communal politics. We have shown as a people how by practical methods it is possible to bring about a more just yet dynamic society by giving every community the full opportunities for the development of its talent.

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And all these have been done in spite of a largely entreport economy, dependent on the trading activities of merchants for its prosperity, and in spite of being attacked from time to time by anti-national pro-Communist elements through strikes, go-slow and other disruptive activities.

Singapore as a military, economic and political asset, is something precious to us and to others in Malaysia. We must never allow these assets to be frittered away by racialism or Communism. Both racialists and anti-national elements preach a society where one group dominates the others either by virtue of its race or by virtue of its ideology. We must check both, for both creeds preach the use of violence and the betrayal of the nation to achieve their objectives.

We the people of Singapore have proved in the last two years in the battle for merger and Malaysia that we have got what it takes to make a people great – social discipline, capacity for hard work and national loyalty to a representative government. Over the last four years, in spite of all the trials and tribulations, we have made appreciable progress. This can only be achieved by a hardy people, propelled by dynamic policies. The future is ours for the making. There are fine qualities in the people of Singapore and of Malaysia. It is the duty of all to harness these qualities into the Malaysian nation – a united, happy and prosperous Malaysia.

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3rd June, 1963.