EMBARGOED TILL 0001 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY

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SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC.JN.2/64(PM)

PRIME MINISTER'S NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE

With Malaysia the pre-independence phase in Singapore's history had ended. Issues like anti-colonialism and merger which were in the forefront of our political consciousness for over a decade and which were the major motivations for political action have now been superseded by other more pressing and more relevant issues.

National Archives of Singapore

These are those who have not adjusted themselves to our altered political environment. They parrot the outmoded slogans valid a decade ago, because these old slogans once rallied popular enthusiasm. For lack of imagination and sensitivity to change, they keep flogging these dead issues. But people are not interested in re-fighting old battles. The present battle that we will have to fight is the battle for a sound economy to ensure more employment, better wages, adequate housing and better social services.

These are the real issues. That is why they have rejected the attempts of pro-Communist anti-national elements to divert the people's attention by sterile slogans which have little to do with the problems of people's livelihood

In the coming years we must learn to recognise real from irrelevant issues. The real issues are: to use the freedom and political power we have to make life better for people.

Secondly, to learn to safeguard our freedom in an area where some nations recently emerged from colonial serfdom are seized with a desire to carve out new empires.

The world around us has changed during the past decade. Some friends have become enemies, some enemies have mellowed into friends. Only by making a realistic appraisal of who are our friends and who our enemies at any given moment, can we learn to survive in the turbulent and not altogether friendly world around us.

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1st June, 1964. (Time issued: 1635 hours)