TRANSLATION OF A SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER,
MR. LEE KUAN YEW, GIVEN IN THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE AT THE PAP TANGLIN BRANCH ON SATURDAY, 23RD OCTOBER, 1965.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

I am glad to have the opportunity to be with you tonight on this happy occasion. I'm proud that our members in the Tanglin Branch did not join the party after we had been ejected from Malaysia but when we were still part of Malaysia, in Malaysia. There are about 150 to 200 new Malay members in the Tanglin Branch.

I know they are certain people who join the PAP hoping to get, the next day, piped water, and the day after tomorrow electricity, roads, drains and housing.

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When we were in Malaysia, they launched a daily campaign against us in the Utusan Melayu, scolding us and inciting communal feeling. During that period, it was those of our members who had convictions and guts who grappled with the problems of our society. These are the men whom we must always value.

Now, wherever I go, there are people asking for membership form. They all want to become members.

Who are interested in joining the UMNO now? People know how empty they are. Two years have passed ... They have "dribbled" the ball, but it does not roll now. Why was it that riots took place at Geylang Serai and not in the other areas? Are the Malays living in the other areas not Malays?

I was angry the other day when they made use of religion. The Utusan Melayu and their editors tried to incite religious feeling by accusing Christians of using money and beautiful girls to convert Muslim youths. So we had a meeting of the Inter-Religious Organisation and of all religious leaders in Singapore to settle the matter. There are four prominent Muslim leaders. When they put their signatures to the statement issued by the Inter-Religious Organisation, I asked the Managing Director of Utusan Melayu if he believed that the four leaders were not good Muslims? The four Muslim leaders signed their name in the Jawi script. He felt ashamed and he has only now remained quiet.

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But their people are still busy, going around. What do they intend to do now? Back and forth, it is Geylang Serai! And, in the end, they bought a block of flats that had been built by us. Our colleague, Lim Kim San built four blocks

of flats in Geylang Serai, and one of them was sold to them. They got the money -- $2-million not from UNMO, but from the Malaysian Government, the money of the people of Malaysia. It was with this money that they bought one block of the flats, nearly 100 units altogether. They registered about 7,000 people who wanted to buy the flats. They said the price charged was low. But we sold to them at cost price. We did not make any profit. And finally, it was their own people, their relatives and their party members who got 83 of the housing units. I told them, "Let us compete." There is no need to close UMNO Singapore. Let UMNO Youth carry on with their activities. Let us compete. They can compete with the PAP in Malaysia. But within a matter of less than two or three weeks, they closed the PAP. When it reaches the point that they are afraid of the name, PAP, what can be done? I can see that there is no confidence.

What is the reason for this? Is this not because we have 700 Malay members in Kota Tinggi: And Kota Tinggi is the constituency of Syed Ja'afar Albar. Although in the last election there was no one standing against him, there are a lot of people who are dissatisfied.

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I do not want to refer to their ministers again lest they get angry. We referred to his name just now because he is no more the Secretary-General of UMNO; so we can refer to him as an example. But I dare not refer to their

ministers because they may send in another protest note. Then we will be shocked and Mr. Barker will have to reply to the note.

But, they hint at us. And not only that. They even presented a silver cup for a Koran-reading competition. If we presented a trophy to Kuala Lumpur for a speech contest in the National Language, Chinese, Tamil and English, I think it would create a big fuss. But when they sent trophies and money to UMNO Youth in Singapore, we kept silent. We only read the newspapers, and we watched.

I would like to ask Singapore UMNO: do you still have anything to do with Kuala Lumpur? We give way to you here, but our comrades in Malaysia have been asked to close down. But never mind. The people, in any case, have eyes and ears, and they speak.

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It's been usual for people from Johore and Kedah to come to Singapore to look for jobs because they cannot find employment where they are. They try to earn a little money here until they can get a permanent job. But I think we have, first of all, to give priority to our own people, irrespective of their race, religion or language. This is important. We are not trying to make it difficult for them; no. But we mut give priority to our own people; not to them.

Their "special rights" is a different thing from the special position in Singapore. And I believe that we can see the difference clearly in the next 10 years.

Have you read the newspaper about how the demand by the Forest Workers' Union for an increment in their salary was rejected? So they said, "We are indigenous people." But they said, "No" -- only contractors and capitalists are entitled to the special rights, and not the forest workers. The secret has leaked out: only those who are rich, those in high positions are entitled to these rights in the transport industry: taxis, buses and lorries. But the workers are told to work hard. It is different in Singapore.

I say, let us compete in the field of education, training and in the matter of social amenities.

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Take, for example, Tanglin Constituency. It has got a nice name. People know the roads here are in good condition. Trees grow on both sides of the road so that the place is cool and protected from the heat of the sun. But I have been in the kampongs of Tanglin, and I know ... Roads and kampongs are two different things. We have focussed our attention not only on the making of roads

but also on the development of Kampong. And within the next five years, I say, let us compete. It is enough if we can compete with Johore Bahru: they in Johore Bahru, we in Singapore. Let us compete -- how best we can repectively help the people of Singapore and the people of Malaysia to better their standards of living.

We have promised that when the owner of a piece of land sells it for building new structures, that we will set aside part of the land and build houses to be alloted to the people who have stayed in the area for more than 7 years. This will be for people who have been residents of the kampong for more than 7 years and not for people who come down from Alor Star. Otherwise, things get difficult. We will register their names; and families with an income of less than 200 dollars will get a rent subsidy of 20%. The Ministry of Social Affairs will give them allowance. And within 5 to 10 years, Geylang Serai will become another Queenstown.

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Their leaders visited the Southern Islands. But they found out that they could not have things their way there. We too have Hajis; for instance, Haji Ya'acob.

And our Haji Ya'acob is well versed in the Koran and Hadith. He also has an out-board motor, and he goes to the Islands regularly. The people he represents live in peace and harmony.

So they went to the Islands and they shook hands with the people. They tried to obstruct him. But the people know that Ya'acob is a good man. He is also a good Haji, and he works hard. Our Minister, Othman Wok, is another good man. So is Rahim Ishak and Ghazali Ismail. All of them work hard. When they realised this, they abandoned the plans. They had failed in their attempt. They were rejected completely. I felt sorry for their boys. After being made use of, they were thrown aside.

When we were ejected from Malaysia, I also felt sad. It was not for Singapore but for the people there: who would now help them to raise their standards of living and to gain a better life.

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Singapore will succeed. If they refuse to co-operate with us, never mind. We will succeed through our own efforts. After two, three year they will see our progress... good houses, good food, good clothing. Then, we will start to talk again: do you or do you not want to co-operate?

They think that we will die if they don't buy our goods. We will make friends with everybody throughout the world. There is Indonesia. We can start our barter-trade. We sell them rice, they will give us copra, and rubber and many other things. There is also Australia, New Zealand, Russia, United States, England, India, China and Japan. Whoever wants to trade with us, we will trade with them. There's nothing wrong if we do that. If they refuse to trade that is their own business. They will be the ones to suffer ....

I read in the newspaper that they want to build a Causeway from Province Wellesley to Penang. I was shocked. They should read geography books first and then start thinking of building a Causeway. It is not from Johore to Singapore: this is only a mile long. There, the sea currents are very strong. Big boulders will disappear in no time.

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I also read in the newspaper that an American combine wants to sell the boulders to them. But they did not mention who will finance the project. They said they have a contractor who can tackle the job. If you can provide the capital, we will build for you. I say, "This is good." It is the same American combine who wants to cut the Kra Canal in Thailand. This will cut short the distance around Singapore and Malaya by about 700 miles. They will have a canal like the Panama and Suez Canals. I say the Government will lose its

money if the project is carried out. What revenue will Penang bring to Malaya? And how about ships? It cannot be.

And, after two years, we will meet again and talk again. We will wait. Meanwhile, we will work hard and if there's no trouble, we will progress and we will succeed.

It is not only Utusan Melayu which causes trouble. There are also chauvinist Chinese groups who want to create trouble. They say: There are about 80 percent of Chinese in Singapore; we therefore want Chinese to be the official language. I say, Don't talk like that. This is a foolish thing to do. Why did you not talk like that when Tun Razak was here? Why do you try to create trouble only after Singapore has been ejected from Malaysia? I gave them a stern warning and they kept silent.

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I hope that all of us are convinced that this country is for all races, and will have four official languages. But Malay will be the National and the common language. If you don't learn the National Language, you will have yourself to blame. Without knowledge of it, it will be difficult for you to get a job.

But, what is important: if there's anyone who tries to create trouble by making use of language, religion or race, inform your Citizens Consultative Committee members. We will first warn them. The second time, we will read them the law. And the third time they will have to go to court.

Then our country will be peaceful and our people will live in harmony and prosperity.

This is our hope for Singapore.

Thank you very much

23rd October, 1965.

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