SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE SIM SAN LOKE HUP ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER ON THE 23RD OF NOVEMBER, 1965.

Friends,

I want to briefly summarise what I said just now in Chinese.

It concerns broadly the question of how to overcome our new problems.

Independence brings with it new problems. And, the first problem is: how do we convince our neighbours that we have not only, as they know, the will to survive, but also the capacity to survive. This is very important.

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If people know that we have got the capacity to take on whatever comes our way, the chances are nobody will want to make things unpleasant for themselves or for us. Because then it becomes unhappy all round!

But if they believe that the two million people of Singapore consist of weaklings, people easily brow-beaten and coerced and bludgeoned into

submission, then the temptation to apply pressure to make us submit will be very great.

You know, some people may believe we are a city dependent on other people's patronage for survival. For instance, the bulk of our water comes from outside Singapore. And as I was on my way here in the car just now and I watched the rainy season set in, my mind wandered .... And I said to myself, 'Every year, we have got 95 inches of rainfall. And if we can find a way to conserve that water, we will have enough to live by ourselves...." Not that this will become necessary.... But because we can, it will be unnecessary for people to twist our arms. This is most important.

We do not want a big army. It is a waste of money. But because we have got stalwart, husky young men who can beat drums today, do gymnastics and, if need be, man the barricades tomorrow and fight unto death for what is ours, it is likely that others will then leave us in peace.

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That is the way human beings are all over the world,

And so I say to my constituents: be prepared to do your little bit for your country. And I was particularly proud that in the recent enrolment for volunteers,

Tanjong Pagar with no playing fields, crowded, full of people, had one of the best enrolments for volunteers of all the 51 constituencies in Singapore.

I say that augurs well for this country. There may be crowded tenements, but there are healthy youths who are virile, vigorous, each prepared to do his little share. That way, our neighbours will always find it useful and, what is more, advisible, to be friends with us. Because we want to be friends with all of them.

And never forget: if they believe that we can be bludgeoned into submission, then the temptation to do so will be very great.

So, let us make it quite clear to everybody; we want to be friends but on honourable terms.

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