PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH MADE AT COMMONWEALTH DRIVE CAR PARK, QUEENSTOWN ON 1ST JANUARY, 1966.

Friends,

I want to briefly round up what I have said just now in Malay and I think this is important, you know - one of the first things we have to learn about living in Southeast Asia and a place like Singapore. And there are lots of places like Singapore but unfortunately they do not want to do it like Singapore. They think they can do it some other way. You know, they think they can say, "You learn my way. And if you don't learn my way then I make you starve or I make it difficult for you." Well, I don't think that that is the way we will prosper.

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And the first thing we learn is to be tolerant. It is a very tiresome business, you know. For you to listen three times, you may understand twice, you may understand three times. But, I can tell you it is even more tiresome to me having to put those ideas in three different languages. But it has to be done! Because this is the way in which we found ourselves after a 140 years of British rule. A lot of people have come here. Each carries his own little shell on his back. You know, Like the tortoise, he brought... they all came down and they got their own little

shells. And it will take some time before we get used to living together and getting to find common denominators.

But, if you force the other man to go your way then I say sure trouble. And many people want us to do that, you know. This place is 75% Chinese. We can do it that way. But I say that is a foolish way. No good for us and good for lots of other people. I say don't do it that way.

You know, last night I was reading a little booklet by an American scholar who went to Indonesia and she, this is a woman you know, she did a research on "The Chinese in Indonesia" -- 3 million of them now. And she concentrated on a certain Chinese in town in South of Java. A very interesting book; about 100 pages. And I say there is a lesson to be drawn from her because it is not very different from the problems we faced -- except that you know the proportion, the numbers are different.

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You know, every time there is a riot there now for some reason or the other, they find an excuse to wallop the Chinese shopkeeper. For some rhyme or reason or they catch hold of the chap in the car, tell him to get out, turn his car, burn it. There is a multitude of reasons. Until finally, you know, some of them there -- some of the Chinese, they even take to Indonesian names. Some of them

have got Indonesian blood too -- inter-marriage and so on. But life is very difficult, you see. They do not accept you!

Now, that sort of situation leads to a lot of unhappiness. That is their country and their business. But I say we learn from them and resolve that that sort of stupidity should not happen here. Nor should it happen in reverse. You know, what I mean "in reverse". That because the people of migrant stock are in larger numbers therefore we override the people who were here before. I say no good. This will lead to a lot of unhappiness. Play it long term. Play it for the next century. Don't play it for next year. I am not interested in the next elections. I am interested in the next 100 years. This is important because there have been communities which have risen and disappeared.

If you go to Angkor Wat in Cambodia, you will see big monuments, big temples, statues and you wonder how is that 1,000 years ago with no machines people were able to carve these things out of stone ... no tractors! How did they move these large pieces of stone into position? And then where have they gone to? Now it is jungle. Every time I look at that I think of Singapore. I say, it will be a great tragedy, you know, if one day some historians, archaeologists come here and then they dig through the ruins and they say, "My god, you know once upon a time in Commonwealth Crescent there was a big car park. And there were

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houses 10 storey high. What happened to them. Disappeared, burnt out! Something happened! Something went wrong!" And I tell you a lot of things can go wrong.

Singapore was called Temasek and in the 12th century the Javanese came, burnt, looted it to the ground, razed it to the ground and left. And when Stamford Raffles came 150 years ago there were only two or three fishing villages. Then he bought the island off the Temenggong of Johore. How is that? We don't want that to happen. And I say, our whole thinking turns on this. How do we secure our future? I think we will progress--1966, '67, '68. So long as we maintain the integrity, honest Government, effective administration, good planning, hard working population -- we must progress. Because we are an important part of the world, people will buy our goods. Don't worry about that. It will take time. There will be ups and downs.

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But at the end of it all, what happens? I say, at the end of it all -- can you create in Southeast Asia a multi-racial society? If you can't then there is real big trouble. And then I say, "Well, if there has to be big trouble then we face it." But, need we have big trouble? You know, you get mad hatters who shout -- one race, one language, one religion. You know, it used to worry me just a month ago. It still worries me but not so acutely because you know the impact is not

immediate. We, you and I -- we know that there will be no more riots in Singapore. But there may be riots and troubles elsewhere and then the repercussion comes to Singapore. So all these things affect us.

And I say, well, we will calculate. We think it over very carefully. But meanwhile prepare for all eventualities. You know, nobody could have foreseen the way we got independence. No fortune teller can tell you this. Not possible. This is life. Well, we got it! And I say with independence comes independence of action and we use it. You know, you get the muscles up.

You know, the SEAP GAMES, Singapore -- 26 gold medals. Two million people -- 26 gold medals whereas 10 million people also 20 something gold medals. So, 2 million equal to 10 million. I mean, it is the quality of the people, you see. Not just number. It is the quality! Everyone of those boys and girls -- they are not going to grow up, you know, "orang hutan". They know science, mathematics, trigonometry and they will build this prosperous society. And you know flying a jet aircraft is different from driving a motor-car. You want to fly a jet air craft now, you must know calculus, electronics, watch radar screens and so on. Quite a complicated business and I say, when it comes to it 5, 10 years time -- we have more supersonic jet pilots per million of population than any body else in Southeast Asia. Because they are learning.

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It is one thing you know, riding on a bullock cart and it is another riding a jet aircraft. Different! And we can do it. But to do that requires planning, thinking ahead of your problems. I think we can do it.

My one simple message for '66 is a very simple one -- this is yours, ours -- yours and mine. I am here because you asked me, you voted for me and my colleagues to look after this. But by God, this is yours and if you don't look after this, you will be left with nothing. Whether it is the Vigilante Corps, whether it is the People's Defence Force, whatever it is -- you generate in your community a sense of pride in ownership. This is ours. And we make this really the most prosperous, the most affluent, the best run country in Southeast Asia. We got the opportunity!

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And the final test of success is that when we are going we know that those who are following after us will take it one step forward. It will not go down, it will go forward from where we left it. That is the final test of success. That we have assured for our progeny a future better than us. Better than the one we had. Then really we have succeeded. And ultimately, we shall succeed by a large segment of Southeast Asia.

And on that note, I wish you all the very best in 1966.

Thank you.

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