TRANSCRIPT OF SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE DINNER OF THE PORT OF SINGAPORE AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES' CO-OPERATIVE THRIFT AND LOAN SOCIETY AT THE BADMINTON STADIUM, SINGAPORE, ON 2ND JANUARY,1966.

I take particular pleasure, this evening, to attend your fortieth anniversary dinner, because I think it is a good way of celebrating the New Year. If you have two million dollars in the kitty, even though it belongs to 2,000 people, nevertheless you feel you are well-off. I only hope that, of the 2,000 members, you've got more lenders than borrowers.

I can think of easy ways of expanding your membership, but I would like you to do it the hard way -- you know, get more people to come in and lend, and accumulate more money; not because it is a good thing to have money in the bank. One of the first things you learn about making money and making a country tick is that money which is stagnant is lost money, and if it is in the bank then the bankers ought to be doing something to make that money turn into more money. And this is what Singapore does. And I can tell you that nobody leaves

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one cent alone if the one cent can become two. And that is the reason why we are not very popular amongst some of our neighbours.

You know, you give them ten dollars today, your meet them tomorrow, you find him in a brand new tuxedo, hired motor-car; and day after tomorrow he will say, "How about lending me another twenty dollars?"

But, I tell you, what is more important is, how do you and I ensure that we have a jolly good time today and have enough for tomorrow. And, a jolly good time at the end of the week, again. And I tell you that the answer is quite simple. It is -- work hard.

Work hard, live within your means, save something. At the end of the week, have a binge; but after the binge is over, have something inside the pocket. And that is why Singapore has thrived -- 140 years. People have come here, made money, sent money out. The British came here, brought in their capital, sent out their profits. The Chinese, the Indians, the Pakistanis, came here. They sent out their profits too. But you and I were left behind. I don't know whether they consider us profits or debits, but here we are.

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And what is important is that at the end of the day, we have got a very modern city to show -- which is something. It works. And we've been running this for some time on our own.

People used to say, "Don't do these things. You fight for independence, you shout, and so on. Then, in the end, the port will come to a stand-still; then what will happen? All will die." In a way, that was true. And, whilst we were shouting, we were also thinking. The danger is not in shouting; the danger is in only shouting.

You see, I admired Jamit Singh, you know. He had a powerful voice. I admired him. As he worked himself up, the veins used to stick out on his forehead, and I watched him with great admiration, wondering when the veins willl one day get too hard. But I tell you what was wrong; he never stopped to think. And that is why we are alive today, you know. You stopped to think, and you did the right thing by yourselves and by your country.

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It saves a lot of trouble if everybody knows what it is all about, what is worrying us, what we are fearful of and how we can overcome the problems. Because, you got a mobilised and an aroused people. It is easy to get them to understand why you are doing, what you are doing -- and sometimes there have

to be unpleasant things. But, if they understand, then you take them along with you.

I would like to spend a few minutes with you this evening to tell you what it is I hope we will do in 1966. First, we must have a sense of purpose and the purpose is your survival and mine. This is ours, you know. The whole of the Harbour Board is yours and mine. Mind you, you cannot take a part of it home. If you do, the Harbour Board Police will look for you. And that is what the Chairman and the other chaps know; but this is your property, collectively.

You wouldn't have believed it, would you, that we could have got rid of all the Europeans? They thought they would go and the place would collapse. We did not drive them out. They went gradually. We moved people into position. The place is ticking as well now as it ever did before if not better -- and we will make it tick more and more, year by year. Because where there was no sense of purpose before -- you were just working for your "gaji" -- now, you've got a sense of purpose. This is yours. If it works, you've got a future for yourself and your children. If it doesn't, you are in trouble, and so am I.

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We will have another harbour. It should have been in operation, really, but for various reasons it is not turning around yet. The wharf, and so on, are at

Jurong. I say ten years from today, the Port Authority will be at least one and a half times if not twice what it is today. In 1966, our first full year of independence, we put down the first foundation stones, build up our own muscles. In all directions. Prepare for all eventualities.

You know, you read what is heppening around you, and it gives you the creeps, because there are other parts in Southeast Asia where people just shout slogans, not knowing what will follow after the shouting. They shout, shout, shout; in the end, they murder each other.

It all started with slogans, the wrong slogans. Slogans, by themselves, are never wrong. It is when you are not doing the thinking to give the intellectual content to the slogan that will lead to a constructive purpose that you go wrong.

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In 1966, we get that urge in the people -- pride in themselves, pride in their nation. And we've got something to be proud about. You show me one country in Southeast Asia that has taken over a port run by a colonial regime where the tonnage has increased, the efficiency has increased. It is not all the port workers. It is the industry at large -- commerce, businessmen, the general level of efficiency. You can take them. What are the ports in Asia, outside Japan? all of them are doing badly. It is a fact. Well, we don't want to mention them, you

know them and I know them. And, internationally, if we keep our reputation up, people will have confidence.

You know, it takes a long time. Confidence is not something that comes out of advertisement -- you know, by shouting slogans or by a good performance. No. confidence comes out of long association. Then, you form a judgement just like after a long time they say, "Well, Singapore Harbour Board workers can be relied upon not to do mad things if you give them a fair deal.

I worked on that premise, you know. I spent months sweating my guts out to undo the mistakes I made in putting a few reckless adventurers into the Harbour Board Staff Association, I spend months to put it right. And I worked on this one premise, that basically this is an intelligent, sober group of workers. They went along with the man and all the shouting for a square deal. Give it to them, cut out the slogan shouters, settle it. And, it worked.

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It was a matter of some satisfaction to me -- not just winning one seat, but holding Telok Blangah after all the ups and downs and all the vicissitudes of fortune. It proved my premise that here were a lot of sober people who really knew what they wanted, and if they could get what they wanted the reasonable way they are prepared to work the reasonable way. And I think this is the way we want to keep it.

You are doing this for a better life for yourselves, and an even better one for your children. And, that is what I am supposed to do; referee in order to ensure that you get that. And, I say, to do that, '66 we build our own defence forces; we build our own pride, purpose in being a nation and establish our reputation overseas as very level headed community.

We already have a fairly established reputation as a people who get things done -- not just a few people; many people, before you get things done. And once the message gets across that that we are finished with the early 1950's -- you know, "Oomplaah Merdeka"- pig-tails running around, and so on; all that over; I say the factories open; Jurong prospers, more homes for you, better jobs for you, me, we will get the pace in Southeast Asia and millions of people who are one with us. We will help them to emerge.

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You see, geography is on our side. Secondly, demography is on our side. Two thousands workers in Malaysian Airways -- aircraft engineers, mechanics, people who know. You know, driving an aeroplane is not like driving a motor-car where your can just go down there and by trial and error move gears, and then get your licence. Either you know mathematics, trigonometry, calculus, and you know how to read the meters, and the aircraft

takes off and comes down, or nobody travels on your aircraft. And, all the workers are our citizens, so they want to stay here. So, you see, we have geography, demography -- and, what is more, I tell you we have geography, demography -- and, what is more, I tell you we have history on our side.

You turn up the history books, and you say, "Show me an example where a people with stamina, with guts, with determination, was overwhelmed by another group that wanted a soft life. You show me one example in history". It never happened. So I say if we want to survive remember that: stamina, determination, patience.

It is a long process. I do not know how long it will be but I tell you that so long as we are one step ahead, always planning, always taking one step ahead...you know, by the time they learn how to fly aircraft, we will be learning to shoot missiles, and that is why we build so many schools and so many secondary schools with so many H.S.C classes -- because this is your future.

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You know, a people that breeds that kind of an elite, that kind of a cadre, they will survive. And one hundred years from now you will have the port of Singapore thriving, bustling. One thousand years from now, we will still be here in Southeast Asia -- yours and mine.

This is important. When we say "ours", we must always define whom we mean by "us". And when we say "us" we mean every Singapore citizen irrespective of race, language, religion, culture. You and I, we are together in Southeast Asia. This is yours, this is mine; together we will make it work. And on that basis we, together, have an assured future.

So, finally, may I wish you all in 1966 -- I would say, first of all, prosperity, because without prosperity all the other things are hard to come by. First, prosperity. Then, good cheer; then good heart.

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