SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. LEE KUAN YEW,

AT THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE PEK KIO

COMMUNITY CENTRE ON APRIL 2ND 1966.

Mr. Chairman and friends,

The trouble with us is that for decades, we have only looked after ourselves in a very small way. We never looked after ourselves in a big way. It was perhaps only our own family consisting of wife, children, mother, father that we cared for. But, that is not good enough. It is a kind of organisation which is sufficient for the problems of thirty, forty years ago.

If we want to survive in Southeast Asia today, we will have to look after ourselves in a big way. It is not only a question of myself, my wife, my children, my father, my mother. That will not do: it has to be not only my family but my fellow citizens, my country. Then there is a chance of survival.

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Let me illustrate what I mean. This is a problem which I am facing all the time. Earlier today I gave away medals to 500 people who had donated blood.

Some had given blood 10 times; some had given 50 times, 70 times. But 500 is a very small number.

I looked at the figures of those who have received blood -- women who give birth at Kandang Kerbau; people involved in accidents and others. The Chinese form 75% of our population, there are 12% Malays, 10% Indians and so on. But, who are the people who give blood? And I read that Europeans received 1.5% of blood, and donate 12%.

Members of the British Army, Navy and Air Force give blood for you and I, and we ourselves cannot give blood. What is happening to us? All we need a year is 20,000 people out of a population of two million to donate blood. That means one person out of every 10,000 people. That is the number we need, and we cannot achieve it: we can get only 12,000 donors. Why is it?

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Let me give another illustration. Recently, I tried to get the doctors to come forward to start a medical service for our volunteers to the People's Defence Force so that there could be a free medical service for a man who is in the army and for his wife and children. But, although we have 500 to 600 doctors in private practice, very few of them volunteered -- as in the case of

blood donors. So if we want to start such a service, we have to make use of government doctors who are already overworked. This is no good.

Why is it this way? It is because for decades, everybody who came here had to look after himself and his family. The government did not look after them.

We must slowly change our attitudes. Whether you are a millionaire, a big landowner, a shopkeeper, a clerk or a worker, we all have to realise that if this country collapses, if it cannot stand up to the pressures, all is finished.

Do you remember what happened when the Japanese came? This is what worries me. Those who are 35 and above can remember. But the children who are 10 to 12 years old cannot remember. They do not know what happened. But you and I know what happened. And I say, never again my lifetime will I allow that to happen to me; never again. They came in; they conquered. At the red bridge in Norfolk Road, Jabatan Merah, I was beaten up by a Japanese sentry two or three days after they had come in -- and for no reason. And I say we cannot have the same thing happening again. You and I must hold this place in the next eventuality.

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I don't know how many years we have got. But in the time that we have got, we must daily consolidate our society. All the racial groups must unite and make this a strong country. We must all fight for what we have.

There are very few countries in Southeast Asia with our standard of life. And we must be prepared to organise and keep and improve on this. And it can only be done slowly as each and everybody understands that he must contribute; that he must not only take but give. It is as in the case of the blood donor. We should not only receive blood. We should give as much as we take out of this society.

Finally, I hope that the Pek Kio Community Centre will -- together with the 180 other community centres -- slowly as we expand... You know, even the community centres are being re-organised as we train more young people, and as we improve on the organisation, on the quality of the work. Then we can expand and slowly integrate the society. And our country survives only if we are sufficiently strong. And it is on that note that I wish you many more happy anniversaries in Pek Kio Community Centre.

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The past in over and it is very different from the future. And we must be prepared, day to day, to meet the problems of our future.