

SPEECH OF WELCOME BY SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK,
HEAD OF STATE, ON THE ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. LEE KUAN YEW, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC
OF SINGAPORE, ON 2ND DECEMBER, 1967.

Mr. Prime Minister,

Dear Singaporean Friends,

It is a great joy for me to welcome you today to Phnom Penh, and to welcome you in the warmest possible fashion on the occasion of your arrival on Khmer soil. It will be no news to you to be informed that this joy we feel is shared by our government, our people and our youth, who salute in you -- Mr. Prime Minister -- not only a great and very true friend but, also, the eminent head of the government of a State, which was more than one claim on our affections.

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Relations between our two States have been on a preferential basis ever since the foundation of that great port of the Southern Seas in the course of the last century. But we have good reason to congratulate ourselves on the strengthening of these relations, following the proclamation of the independence of the Republic of Singapore. Moreover, it gives me great pleasure to recall that

the Government of Singapore was one of the first to furnish us with a declaration to the effect that it recognized our frontiers as at present established. This initiative taken in a just cause furnishes clear proof of our common concern in asserting our independence, and of our common refusal to align ourselves on any grouping of powers.

May I avail myself of this opportunity to pay a most sincere tribute to His Excellency Mr. Lee Kuan Yew for his action -- despite the friendly ties which his country maintains with powers and countries hostile to us -- in insisting on proclaiming to the world that Khmer policy, both in its internal, and external aspect, is exemplary. This testimony you have rendered in our favour, in the difficult situation in which we are placed today, is a source of great encouragement to all my fellow-countrymen, and I should like to express our deep gratitude to you -- Mr. Prime Minister -- for your action.

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For my part, I must stress the great admiration aroused in us by the great work accomplished by the Government of Singapore under the leadership of its Prime Minister, who is rightly acclaimed as one of the most dynamic Prime Minister in Asia. Moreover, we are the better able to assess the nature of the great achievements in the economic, and social field, which the Government of Singapore has to its credit, when we recall to mind the difficulties to be

surmounted in bringing them about: difficulties implicit in the peculiar geographical situation occupied by Singapore, aggravated by insatiable ambitions of the great powers. But I am happy to be able to assure you once again -- Mr. Prime Minister -- that you may count on Cambodia's unqualified support, and that we are prepared to make every effort to reinforce our common solidarity.

May I likewise express our joy at having the honour of welcoming Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew and her children to Cambodia on this, their first visit. Their presence confers on this third occasion on which the eminent Prime Minister has come to our country a family aspect, which is in fact characteristic of Khmero-Singaporean relations. It likewise constitutes a proof of friendship which we value most highly.

I wish you -- Mr. Prime Minister, Madam, dear Singaporean friends -- a very happy stay amongst us. You will have an opportunity to see not only our Capital but, also, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville, and it is my hope that the progress we have made in every field will be thought deserving of your esteem and, in consequence, of your friendship.

Long live the Republic of Singapore!

Long live His Excellency Mr. Lee Kuan Yew and his Government!

Long live the brotherly friendship which unites the Khmer people with the people of Singapore!

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