SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER UPON
HIS ARRIVAL AT POCHENTONG AIRPORT,
PHNOM PENH ON 2ND DECEMBER,
1967.

Your Royal Highness,

My wife and I would like to thank you for a very warm welcome, that you accorded us this morning and for the very generous words of friendship and praise.

This is the first time I have travelled with my three children and the reason I have chosen to bring them to Phnom Penh and, I hope, shortly to Angkor, is to show them a glimpse of the great traditions, the great history, the great civilisations which exist in and on the Asian continent. Alas, there are no monuments that have withstood the white ants, the jungle and the rain nearer to us than Phnom Penh. There may or may not have been great civilisations in the lands around us. But alas, the climate is inhospitable and what was wrought in wood has not been left for posterity, but what is in stone in there for thousand of years.

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But we live in the hazardous heart of a calculative world and I would hate to imagine that what we in Singapore are putting up in steel structure and concrete is destined for the delectation of some tourists a thousand years from now. We cannot trace anything in Singapore beyond the 19th of February, 1819, when an Englishman landed there are founded the settlement. His statue is still there because he must assume the responsibility of having started this nation state. But, my forebears having brought me there, we shall be there for the next thousand years, and not as a relic for any American, Russian or any other tourist. We intend to be there to receive all our friends and our non-friends alike with the hospitality and cordiality which we find is the best way to ensure everlasting peace and friendship between us and our peace loving and peaceful neighbours.

Your Royal Highness, may I again say how deeply appreciative my wife and I are of the very sincere reception we have received at your hands this morning. May I reciprocate and stress the friendship and bonds that tie us, not just personally, but by the curious circumstances we find ourselves in. Our juxtaposition with middle and still larger powers beyond, in an ever shrinking world, make us have an identity of interest. I have had the benefit of your very sincere and warm hearted friendship which goes back to within 48 hours of the birth of modern Republic of Singapore, which again is not of my creation. But having had this thrust on us we intend to remain there; and I want my children to

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see what happens to people who are not vigilant, to see what could happen to them, as happened in Angkor.

May I wish you, your people and your kingdom not just long life, but eternity.

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