

SPEECH BY SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK, HEAD OF
STATE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEPARTURE OF
HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AND MRS. LEE KUAN YEW
ON 8TH DECEMBER, 1967.

Mr. Prime Minister,

Madam,

Dear Friends from Singapore,

As you now prepare to leave us, I should like to assure you once again of the real happiness your official visit to our country has caused us. Indeed, this visit may be said to belong to the category of those which near relatives are in the habit of paying one another now and then for the purpose of knitting family ties together again, and of exchanging news and views of common interest.

Your visit--and I revert to this matter once again--will be hailed as a success --Mr. Prime Minister. On this occasion, we have been able to note the fact that--despite the existence of problems peculiar to each one of us, and the different solutions we are seeking to apply to them--Khmero- Singaporean relations are founded on reciprocal esteem, on friendship based on confidence in

the other and on a mutual desire to promote co-operation between our respective States without ulterior motives in mind.

For my part, I believe--as you believe--that mutual co-operation is destined to become closer in a number of fields. Such an evolution is in conformity with the logic of geography and history, and it is up to us to work together in conformity with these imperatives. In the course of the talks we have held, we have examined the possibilities open to us of increasing commercial exchanges, and of providing each other with the sort of mutual assistance best calculated to promote the economic development of our respective States. We will doubtless be able to give concrete expression to projects likely to prove beneficial to us both.

I should like to thank you warmly- Mr. Prime Minister-- for the spirit of solidarity you have displayed, and for the understanding you have shown for our problems. More especially, we have accepted with real gratitude your proposal to encourage a regular flow of tourists from Singapore to our country. Furthermore, the co-ordination of our efforts in this domain will serve to promote in very timely fashion those additional facilities for communication which we are seeking to establish between Singapore and Cambodia.

Finally, I should like to express the confident hope that our entente will serve as proof of the confidence we retain in the future of our relations with all those countries in this region of the world, which have been finally freed from the imperialist grip, and are filled with a dawning awareness of that natural solidarity which should unite us, the one with the other.

I ask you- Mr. Prime Minister--to convey to the people of Singapore brotherly greetings from the Khmers, together with the assurance of their indefectible friendship. And to you personally-- Mr.Prime Minister -- I express fervent good wishes, and the hope that the Government over which you preside will soon have further important successes to its credit.

Long live the Republic of Singapore

Long live Khmero-Singaporean Friendship

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