TRANSCRIPT OF SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE PAP KAMPONG KEMBANGAN BRANCH'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS HELD ON 22ND, JULY, 1969

Mr. Chairman, Comrades,

It is very necessary, particularly after the comparatively mild troubles that we have had in May and June this year, for us to reaffirm that the Government in Singapore will, and must, ensure security and fair play to all, regardless of race, religion or language.

If we had not acted with complete impartially, but had allowed some vicious hooligans and gangsters of Chinese ethnic descent, for their own reasons, to get away with bullying and murdering some Malays, because Malays are a minority in Singapore, then today it would have become a different Singapore.

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Once you destroy that basic trust in a government, that it will act impartially and protect every citizen, it will never be the same again. We meet tonight in a secure and relaxed atmosphere because people of all ethnic groups understand that the rule of law will be upheld. It will protect you, whether you are Malay, Indian, Ceylonese, Eurasian or Chinese. That you are a Chinese does not allow you to flout the law. Similarly, an injured party, whether from a majority or minority ethnic group, is not entitled to take the law into his own hands. There are policemen and National Servicemen to back up the law-enforcement agencies.

Naturally I am proud of the way in which our multi-racial police force and our multi-racial National Servicemen behaved: with discipline and propriety. Our young men in the Special Constabulary or in the Vigilante Corps or in the uniform of our Armed Services are ordinary citizens. They share in your happiness and success, or your trials and tribulations. They must and will always conduct themselves with decorum and courtesy.

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This is a troubled part of the world. It does no good to pretend that all is well. We know that all may not be well. But all difficulties will be manageable and resolved if we make preparations and take precautions to ensure that nothing

is allowed to disturb the racial harmony or upset respect for law and order, so essential for our economic growth.

The future is what we make of it. And we must resolve, particularly after the unhappy events in May and June, that despite the misadventures, we in Singapore will continue on the path of sanity, a fair deal for everyone, and fair shares for all. This is our way forward to a better life.

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