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H.R.H. PRINCESS ALEXANDRA

The following is the text of the speech, by HRH Princess Alexandra at the National Day banquet on Friday, August 8th, 1969.

"It is for me a great privilege to be here with you today, as the representative of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, to share in the celebrations of the foundation, one hundred and fifty years ago, of modern Singapore.

"Your Republic has indeed much to celebrate. In a comparatively short space of time it has developed from a thriving trading centre into a vigorous young nation with a distinctive and unique character of its own. It has become an active and fully independent partner in the Commonwealth, and is growing rapidly in importance in the world of today, and the credit for these achievements must largely go to the courage and industry of the people of Singapore themselves.

"It was one man -- Stamford Raffles -- who had the vision to realize the potentialities of what was, in 1819, a largely uninhabited, jungle-clad island, situated strategically at the crossroads of the East, but on the foundations he laid then successive generations of immigrants from many countries have combined to create the Singapore of 1969. Out of their efforts has emerged a society which is proving every day its ability to adapt successfully to changing needs, and since independence your city state -- small in size but great in spirit -- has gone from strength to strength. Today it is a Commonwealth in miniature, where peoples of many different creeds and cultural traditions are bound together by common ideals and interests, working for the good of all.

"If the economic, industrial and social advances of recent years provide a guide for the future, then Singapore's star is bright indeed, and though there must of course be problems and dangers in the years ahead, it is not difficult in

Singapore to feel confident in the ability and will of the government and the people to foresee and overcome whatever obstacles they may have to face.

There is an atmosphere of energy and enthusiasm here which it is a delight to encounter, and which has impressed me greatly. During the rest of our very happy stay I look forward to seeing more of what you have achieved so far, and in all your efforts I wish you well.

"Her Majesty The Queen has asked me to convey to the people of Singapore this message:-

'To the President, Government and people of of the Republic of Singapore I send my warmest congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the creation of modern Singapore. It is my fervent hope and belief that, building on foundations so surely laid, you will go on to still greater achievement in the future and continue to progress in security and harmony.'

"Mr. Prime Minister, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to propose a toast to the President of the Republic of Singapore."

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