

**SPEECH GIVEN BY HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS**  
**THE CROWN PRINCE OF JAPAN AT A BANQUET GIVEN**  
**BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. LEE KUAN YEW, PRIME MINISTER**  
**OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, ON TUESDAY,**  
**26TH FEBRUARY, 1970**

Mr. Prime Minister, Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Crown Princess and I are most grateful for your kind words of welcome. We have been deeply touched by the warmth and sincerity of the reception given by Their Excellencies the President and the Prime Minister, the Government and the people of Singapore.

**National Archives of Singapore**

We have great respect for the industrial development and the high standard of living which the people have achieved through strenuous efforts. We have just seen with amazement and will see again tomorrow some of your achievements towards this aim.

I am in perfect sympathy with your ideals as expressed in your flag; democracy, peace, progress, justice and equality, which are also ideals of the Japanese.

Both of our countries have in common very important problems. The land area is small, with minimal resources, but with many people. We have to be a highly industrialized country yet with a minimum of pollution damage to maintain a high standard of living. But there is one thing which is not common to both of our countries. It is said Singapore is a multi-racial State, a multi-cultural, multi-religious, multi-lingual, tolerant State. Our country is a Nation that started with unity and has always strived to gain diversity in the course of history. On the contrary you have started with diversity and have strived to gain unity with tolerance. Your goal might involve strenuous efforts which is a challenging one.

Wishing you great success, I would like to ask all present to toast the health and happiness of His Excellency the President and the welfare and prosperity of the people of Singapore.