SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. LEE KUAN YEW, AT THE DINNER GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR BY THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER, MRS. INDIRA GANDHI, AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN, NEW DELHI, ON 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1970

Your Excellency Prime Minister, Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am not a stranger in Delhi and I am happy to say that each time I visit Delhi, I feel very much amongst friends and feel able to speak freely and frankly as one does amongst friends. Not only because we share many ideals in common, but because we feel very much together in so many of the major issues in this world.

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Since my last visit in 1966, as the Americans would put it, the 'scenario' has vastly changed and we must find in this completely altered situation new relevance to policies which are designed to prevent us from becoming mere auxiliaries of either of the super powers. Non-alignment must find new relevance in the vastly changed world and I look forward to sharing your thinking on these matters with both you and your colleagues in charge of foreign affairs.

As I flew in across the Deccan Plateau, I was struck by the greenness and the lusciousness of the crops below and I thought to myself how few could have predicted four years ago that the green revolution would become a reality and open up new avenues for progress and growth in India.

But as you have pointed out so vividly, material progress alone does not bring the fulfilment which human endeavour strives to give its peoples. I would wish to believe that the ancient cultures can survive technological changes which bring about changes in ways of life and give fulfilment to our peoples, despite the materialistic, affluent, rather harsh, cold, hard-headed types of societies which today have emerged as the successful models for the developing countries.

As one thing common about all those that have developed, they keep their profit and loss accounts very carefully and make sure that they are in the blank. I would wish that because our people in Singapore have descended from cultures which go back to the days before affluence is an end in itself, although we try and keep our books in the blank, we keep our souls very much warm and we keep our friendships more important than just our own self-interests.

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And in this regard, may I say how much I owe to you and before you, to your father, for the many valuable stays I had in Delhi and from which I have received so much friendliness and help.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, may I ask you to rise and join with me to drink to the health and happiness of the President of India.

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