

TRANSCRIPT OF TRANSLATION OF SPEECH OF WELCOME BY
THE CHANCELLOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY,
HERR WILLY BRANDT, AT A DINNER IN HONOUR OF
THE PRIME MINISTER, MR LEE KUAN YEW,
AT BONN ON 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1970

Mr. Prime Minister dear friend,

Madame, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The visit of the Head of Government of the Republic of Singapore to Bonn gives me, not only as Chancellor but also personally, great pleasure. We have known each other for a number of years. We met some years ago under different circumstances and we noted a remarkable harmony of views. Since then, we have not lost contact. I am delighted to see you again and I extend to you and to Mrs. Lee, cordial welcome on behalf of the Federal Government.

Your visit underscores at the same time the good state of German-Singapore relations. The relationship between our two countries is characterised, if you permit me to say so, by unusual sympathy. It rests on the solid basis of commerce, trade and industry, communications. The future will see, I am sure, an even closer co-operation.

I am pleased that you will have a chance of taking a closer look at our country and to see something of the diversity of our political, economic and cultural life.

We are very anxious, you may be sure, to learn more about your country's situation, as you may wish to obtain a clearer idea of the problems we are confronted with. I feel that an exchange of views of that kind is of great mutual benefit.

Co-operation between our two countries covers not only the economic sector. And I am confident that this co-operation will be growing in the future.

Our two countries also share political interests, the most important of which is to safeguard peace. As you know, Mr. Prime Minister, the Federal Government has taken a number of initiatives in Europe with a view to reducing existing tension and, to the extent possible, substituting co-operation for confrontation. In so doing, we assume that ultimately, our efforts will not only benefit Europe but other parts of the world as well. Vice-versa, the repercussions of events in Southeast Asia and in the Middle East are to be felt also in Europe. Relaxation of tension and safeguarding of peace must be world-

wide to become fully effective. This imposes upon all the nations a duty to make an active contribution, aware of their responsibility and free from illusion for the securing of peace.

We are appreciative of the fact that the Republic of Singapore has, in this field, taken over in Asia, a world-recognised role. For years, Singapore has been an important commercial and shipping centre. It is not least due to your foresight, to your vigour, dear friend, that during the short years that your country attained independence, it has become a focal point for regional co-operation in Southeast Asia in the political, economic and cultural fields.

The key word for the future of nations is regional co-operation. Obstacles on this path should not be insuperable, either in Europe or in Asia.

The safeguarding of external peace essentially depends on ensuring stable developments at home. Here again, your country is a case in point. Your social and economic policies -- exemplary and farsighted as they are -- benefit not only your country and your region but, in a wider sense, also those countries which, like ourselves, are interested in closer political and economic co-operation with Singapore.

Your visit is primarily intended to promote the further extension of our economic relations. I am confident that there are still many opportunities of which we should jointly avail ourselves.

And, in conclusion, the Chancellor proposes a toast to the health of our guest and Mrs. Lee for the prosperous future of the Republic of Singapore and to trustful co-operation and friendship between our two countries.

Thank you very much.

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