

**TRANSCRIPT OF SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING,**  
**AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF GERMAN**  
**INDUSTRIES, MR. WILHELM MEYERHEIM, TO INTRODUCE THE**  
**PRIME MINISTER, MR. LEE KUAN YEW, TO THE MEMBERS OF**  
**THE FEDERATION OF GERMAN INDUSTRIES, THE FEDERATION**  
**OF GERMAN WHOLESALE AND FOREIGN TRADE, THE**  
**FEDERATION OF GERMAN BANKS, THE ASSOCIATION OF**  
**GERMAN CHAMBERS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND THE**  
**EAST ASIA SOCIETY, HELD AT HOTEL KONIGSHOF, BONN,**  
**ON 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1970**

Your Excellency,

It is a very special honour for me to welcome you here on behalf of the top organisations of the German economy. I should like to welcome you very cordially in the name of the Federation of German Industries, the Federation of German Wholesale and Foreign Trade, the Federation of German Banks, the Association of German Chambers of Industry and the East-Asia Society.

We appreciate this opportunity to have talks with you, Your Excellency, all the more as this is your first visit to our country and since you have only a little time for your stay in Germany. We are happy also to welcome to this gathering, His Excellency, Mr. Hon, your country's Minister of Finance. It is the economy that forms the essential basis of the successful relations between our two countries.

The Germany economy has followed the extraordinary upswing of your country's economy with the greatest interest. The economic growth in your country is being all the more admired as it is accompanied by a remarkable degree of political stability. These two sectors have a decisive influence on the ever-growing interest that industrial nations take in Singapore as a trading partner. There has also been a remarkable expansion of goods between Singapore and the Federal Republic in recent years; in particular, the flow of German products to Singapore could be considerably increased. Above all, Singapore is becoming increasingly important as an investment partner in Southeast Asia. This is, not least, due to your central, geographical position. A number of German companies are considering investment schemes for your country or have already realised such plans. You may take this as an expression of the great confidence that the German economy has in the economic and political stability of your country.

We all hope that the links already existing between our two countries are only a beginning. There are still numerous possibilities for intensifying our economic relations. German industries are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that exports must be promoted to a larger extent than has so far been the case, by establishing production units in the countries concerned. A closer co-operation between our countries for industrial collaboration and the establishment of German undertakings in Singapore would, therefore, be of great advantage to both sides. Moreover, we think that countries which are politically reliable and stable should be strengthened also economically. They are the bulwarks for the maintenance of peace in Asia in which we are all interested. We all know about the responsibility Singapore has to assume in this respect, and we wish you every success in dealing with the tremendously difficult task arising from this responsibility.

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Let me, in conclusion, assure you once more that it is a great honour for us that you are here today and we are given the opportunity to have an exchange of views with you, Your Excellency, and with the gentlemen accompanying you.

Thank you.