SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE

PAP WHAMPOA BRANCH GET-TOGETHER DINNER

INAUGURATING THE FORMATION OF ITS YOUTH

SECTION, ON SUNDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1971

Great changes have taken place in Singapore in the 16 1/2 years since the PAP was formed. From an inchoate, disorganised, disparate group of diverse racial, clanish, sub-clanish, linguistic and dialect groups, further fragmented by different cultural and religious difference, we have become a more tightly-knit society. There is now a consciousness that our personal interests rest on our national interest. From a riotous, volatile, unstable, unpredictable society, we have become stable and predictable, politically and economically.

Our economic growth is no longer the result of random activity, without co-ordination or planning. Our economic strategy has been carefully thought out, various alternatives weighed before decisions are made. Institutions have been created to accelerate the achievement of these economic goals. From the Economic Development Board, the Development Bank of Singapore, to the Monetary Authority, there is growing comprehensiveness in planning our future. There is a definite shift from schools geared to producing clerks, lawyers and doctors to ones

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also training technicians, engineers, architects, managers, and economists. And the boys have all to be healthy and vigorous to do their national service.

All this was brought about because there was a hard core of people who, for a number of reasons, put cause before self. They were prepard to lose, in monetary and social rewards. In 1954 if you joined the PAP, you were joining a group whose future was unpredictable and believed by intelligent people to be pessimistic.

Now if you want to make more than an average contribution to Singapore's well-being and progress, one is to join the PAP, and argue for your policies to be adopted by the PAP.

To join the PAP today, you must prove your sincerity and demonstrate your convictions. Then you can be a cadre member. As a cadre member you influence party and so government policies. If you are able and energetic, you can be become an MP. Then you have direct access to the Ministers who formulate and implement government policies. And in the not-too-distant future, within the next five to ten years, you may begin yourself to decide on and implement policies. These decisions can make Singapore a better place to live in, make Singaporeans a better educated, a more healthy, and a more cultivated people. If you leave it to others less honest or

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able or sincere you will get frustrated watching them make a mess of Singapore and your future.

We are extremely selective in who we take in as active members, and who we nurture as cadre members. Today you carry little risk of social stigma or economic sacrifice by joining the PAP. There is not the automatic eliminator of the early years, or even of the years when we were in Malaysia, with the power of the police and armed forces in the hands of the Central Government.

To join the PAP then, you needed courage and convictions. Many did join. Because of them, Singapore today is in a happier position.

But all this progress and development could so easily disintegrate, if the hard-core or men monitoring performance, modulating policies and reconciling conflicting interests were to fade away without equally hard digits to replace them.

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Nobody owes Singapore a living. But the Singapore Government owes Singaporeans the duty of giving everybody equal opportunities for schooling, working, a decent home, medical treatment, adequte recreational activities, and a secure future. The standards of all these depend on first, the quality of a people and next, the verve of their leadership.

Businessmen expand their enterprises, foreign companies invest to manufacture electronic goods, consumer durables, cameras, and so forth, not for sentimental reasons. We provide them with the stability for long-term planning. We provide them with one of the best-educated groups of workers in South and Southeast Asia -- a people willing to work hard, quick to learn, and with the stamina for intense and sustained effort.

But all these assets to be put to advantage need an inner core of modulators and monitors. Hence, the importance of recruiting new talent to ensure continuity. Party members who are active and honest, cadres who have political convictions, help the selection and election of good M.P.s. From these M.P.s good ministers can be made. Then Singapore will thrive in the '70s and '80s, and beyond. Self-renewal requires a younger generation sensitive and with a deep commitment to their fellow Singaporeans to create a more just and equal society. The young must be given the opportunities to gain experience and confidence.

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Our problem is not winning elections. The crucial problem is to provide for the continuity of effective leadership, with the conviction born out of a social conscience for the well-being of our fellow citizens. Young men and women who are willing to work together to build a more just Singapore, can join the P.A.P. From

each his best, to each at least a fair share for his contribution, that will make for a stronger and better Singapore.

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