ADDRESS BY PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW AT THE DINNER BY HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS AND MRS. MARCOS - TUESDAY 15 JANUARY, 1974

Though I have been in the Philippines for only a few hours, the great warmth with which my wife and I, and members of my delegation have been received, has made us feel at ease and amongst friends. I am indebted for the care that has gone into the preparation of my visit. In the last few years, relations between our two countries have been more than cordial. After this visit, with greater understanding between us, there should be more trade and co-operation in economic projects.

My visit takes place at a time when the course of events in our part of the world has altered dramatically. The future is uncharted and may be fraught with surprises. Old maps are unreliable guides. Issues which preoccupied us for some three decades -- anti-colonialism, the Cold War, and Third World solidarity -- they have receded into the background, displaced by more formidable issues.

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The energy crisis is indicative of the new type of problems that we are likely to encounter in the coming years. Here, the conflict between the have's and have-not's makes for a different kind of division between nations. The established divisions between Communist and non-Communist systems, between developed and developing nations, between coloured and non-coloured peoples, between agricultural and industrial societies, have become less relevant than the new divisions such as those between oil producers and oil consumers.

These new problems do not lend themselves to solution by individual national initiatives. Highly industrialised countries are unable to meet these global problems through their separate national endeavours. There are no purely American, Russian, Chinese, or even comprehensively Asian, solutions to such problems, which threaten our inter-dependent world. There are limits to what nations, and in particular small nations, can do on their own to meet what are global problems.

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In Southeast Asia, we should strive to avoid the deleterious consequences of old fashioned nationalist economic policies through co-operative endeavour. A start has already been made through ASEAN. The pace of co-operation in the ASEAN region has perforce been slow in its initial years. It may well be that the changes which have taken place in East and Southeast Asia will give added

impetus to ASEAN's search for more substantial economic progress. The ASEAN countries hold the promise of rapid and dynamic growth. It would be a pity not to realise this promise. The question is whether we collectively have the imagination to discern the possibilities and the boldness to take the steps to realise our potential in jointenterprise.

I am privileged to be here, Mr. President, to meet you at an important juncture in the history of Southeast Asia, and to hear your views on how Southeast Asian nations could respond to the changed circumstances surrounding them.

I look forward to the opportunity tomorrow to be briefed on the economic and political outlook of the Philippines. I hope to get an insight on how your country is grappling with the tasks of social and economic change, and to be briefed by your able associates on the prospects as seen from Manila.

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