

PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG'S SPEECH AT THE BANQUET
IN HONOUR OF PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW OF
SINGAPORE, 11 MAY 1976

Your Excellency Respected Prime Minister and

Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew,

Distinguished Guests from Singapore,

Friends and Comrades,

We are very glad that the goodwill delegation led by His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, has come upon invitation to visit China, bringing to the Chinese people the profound friendship of the people of Singapore. On behalf of the Chinese Government and people, I wish to express our warm welcome to Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew and the other distinguished guests from Singapore and take this opportunity to extend our cordial greetings to the people of Singapore.

Singapore is a young country in Southeast Asia. Her industrious and valiant people, working hard in a pioneering spirit, developed the country and waged a protracted and heroic struggle against colonial rule. Since the

independence of the Republic of Singapore, they have carried on an unremitting effort to safeguard national independence and state sovereignty. In international affairs, Singapore opposes hegemonism and power politics, stands for peace and neutrality of Southeast Asia, actively develops relations with other Third World countries, and has contributed positively to promoting economic exchanges and trade among nations. We sincerely wish the people of Singapore greater achievements on their road of advance.

Friends and comrades,

At present, the international situation is developing in a direction most favourable to the people of all countries but unfavourable to imperialism and hegemonism. The Third World countries and peoples, strengthening their unity and supporting each other, have scored one victory after another in the struggle against imperialism and hegemonism and are playing an ever greater role in international affairs. The superpowers are finding it more and more difficult to muddle along. Their intensified global rivalry for spheres of influence and world hegemony is the cause of world intranquility. But no matter how desperately they may struggle, they will not escape their ultimate doom. The people are the masters of history. The future of the world belongs to them, and it is very bright.

An excellent situation has emerged in Southeast Asia with the historic victories of the peoples of the Indo-Chinese countries. The struggle of the peoples in Southeast Asian countries to safeguard independence and sovereignty and combat big-power hegemonism has continued to develop vigorously. The relations between these countries and other Third World countries have witnessed a heartening growth and reinforcement. After the defeat of one superpower in Southeast Asia, the other superpower is trying to take the chance to squeeze in, to carry out infiltration and expansion there. But as facts have proved, where this superpower reaches its claws, the people there will better perceive its expansionist features. It has been strongly condemned by the peoples of the Southeast Asian countries for its underhand activities in this area. We are pleased to note that more and more countries in Southeast Asia have clearly stated their opposition to the practice of hegemony by any country in any part of the world. This is a far-sighted stand which conforms to the interest of the people of all countries. The first ASEAN summit conference held not long ago reaffirmed its positive proposal for the establishment of a zone of peace and neutrality in Southeast Asia and achieved significant results in strengthening regional economic co-operation. We feel sure that so long as the peoples of the Southeast Asian countries uphold independence and strengthen their unity, they will steadily win new victories in the struggle against imperialism and hegemonism.

China is a developing socialist country belonging to the Third World. The Chinese Government and people have always maintained that all countries, big and small, should be equal. We are firmly opposed to big nations bullying small ones and strong nations bullying weak ones. We hold that the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence should guide relations between nations and that each people have the right to decide as they wish the social system of their own country. No country has the right to carry out aggression, subversion, control, interference or bullying against other countries. China will never be a superpower, now or in the future. We will unswervingly stand by all oppressed people and oppressed nations of the world and fight together with them against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism.

Comrades and friends,

The struggle initiated and led by Chairman Mao personally to repulse the Right deviationist attempt to reverse correct verdicts has already won great victories. Marching victoriously along Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and in high spirits, the Chinese people are launching a new upsurge of in-depth criticism of Teng Hsiao-ping to repulse the Right deviationist attempt to reverse correct verdicts and are persisting in grasping revolution and promoting production and other work and preparedness against war. The situation in China

is getting better and better. The victory of the current struggle will no doubt greatly raise our people's revolutionary awareness, further consolidate our dictatorship of the proletariat and promote our socialist construction, making China stronger and more prosperous. The people of all nationalities in our country are determined to unite and carry this great struggle through to the end.

There is a profound traditional friendship between the peoples of China and Singapore. Sharing a similar historical experience, our two peoples have always sympathized with and supported each other in the struggle against imperialism and colonialism. Our friendship has made new progress in recent years. Our friendly contacts, cultural exchanges and economic and trade relations have steadily increased. The current visit to China by the goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew personally provides an opportunity for a direct exchange of views between leaders of our two countries on matters of common interest. This will certainly help enhance the mutual understanding and friendly relations between our two countries.

We wish His Excellency Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and the other distinguished guests from Singapore a successful visit.

Now I propose a toast

to the prosperity of the Republic of Singapore and the well-being of her people,

to the continuous growth of the traditional friendship between the peoples of China and Singapore and the friendly relations between the two countries,

to the health of His Excellency Benjamin Henry Sheares, President of the Republic of Singapore,

to the health of His Excellency Prime Minister and Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew,

to the health of the other distinguished guests from Singapore, and

to the health of all friends and comrades present here!

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