SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. LEE KUAN YEW, AT A DINNER BY THE KWANGTUNG PROVINCIAL AND CANTON MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES, CANTON, ON SATURDAY, 22 MAY 1976

Mr. Lin Li-ming,

Vice Chairman of the Kwangtung Provincial Revolutionary Committee

Mr. Chiao Lin-yi,

Chairman of the Canton Municipal Revolutionary Committee and Friends,

On behalf of my delegation and I, may I thank you for the warm and friendly welcome.

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Many Chinese left China through Canton for Southeast Asia during the period of turmoil and disorder, when China was carved up and exploited by the industrialised nations, and again during the years of resistance to Japanese invasion. Hence my interest in Canton.

It has been a most instructive and interesting two weeks. All members of my delegation were impressed by the tremendous hard work put in by the people. Peasants work from dawn till 7 o'clock in the evening. Factories work all seven days in the week. Workers take turns for their one day off a week. The discipline of the people, and the uniformity with which policies were implemented throughout the country, were tributes to thorough organisation. Although there were variations in the temperament of the people, from the relatively dry, and less fertile north, like Tachai and Yenan, to the wet and fertile areas of Wushih, and to the sub-tropical regions of Kweilin and Canton, the drive and exhortation to greater achievement was always present.

May I express my admiration for the hardworking peasants and workers of China. The orderly way in which every community conducts itself reflects thorough organisation.

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I return to Singapore, carrying back a great experience. China's problems, and the self-reliant methods of solving them, will always be vivid in my mind.

As a result, I have become more conscious of Singapore's very different situation, and different way of life. Many of us remain ethnically Chinese. Many speak the same language, but without the new vocabulary that you have

developed. But we have developed differently, because we have different ways of earning our living in a completely different environment. I must confess that all members of my delegation find it a completely different tempo and way of life.

Now I ask you to drink a toast to the progress and advancement of the people of China, to the friendship between the peoples of Singapore and China, to a better and more realistic understanding of each other, and to the health of the Vice-Chairman of the Kwangtung Provincial Revolutionary Committee and Chairman of the Canton Municipal Revolutionary Committee, and to our other Chinese hosts present tonight.

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