**SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER**

**MR LEE KUAN YEW AT THE DINNER**

**HOSTED BY CHANCELLOR AND MRS SCHMIDT**

**IN BONN ON 11 JUNE 1979**

Mr Chancellor, Mrs Schmidt

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for your warm welcome. Nine years ago, when I last visited Bonn in 1970, the Federal Republic had just come of age. Today, it has grown mature, having recently celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Basic Law of the Federal Republic under a Chancellor respected as a tough-minded realist with a thorough grasp of the economic and political realities of the contemporary world.

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In one and a half generations, the Federal Republic has worked her way back as a respected member of the now greatly enlarged world community.

Amongst developing countries, the Federal Republic is recognised as a successful example of an industrialised model to learn from, a democratic and orderly society which has coped with terrorism without abandoning democratic

practices. It is also a society which has not allowed the work ethic to wilt because of good living.

Despite a difficult period of high unemployment, the Federal Republic has not taken steps to protect her markets from the exports of the developing countries. The Federal Republic has not blocked exports from Singapore and her partners from the countries of ASEAN, although she has had to acquiesce in putting up barriers to imports one or more of her partners in the community have considered sensitive.

Relations between the European Community and ASEAN have developed and strengthened, in large measure as the result of the drive and initiative of your Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Mr Genscher. He played a prominent role in initiating the dialogue that brought together for the first time Foreign Ministers of the nine and the five ASEAN countries in Brussels last November for wide-ranging discussions for economic cooperation. Conditions are favourable for an EEC-ASEAN cooperation agreement to expand the relationship.

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There will always be differences between rich and poor people, whether they live in one country or in different countries. Of course, poor people feel it more keenly when they find themselves living together in countries which are overwhelmingly poor. And when they are also of different races and cultures, and at different levels of economic development, these poorer nations know that they cannot hope to catch up with the rich countries for many generations, unless they strike oil. Many leaders of poor countries have noticed that governments of rich countries provide their citizens equal opportunities to health, education, and jobs. They therefore consider it not unreasonable that if there were a world government, rich and poor countries would get equal opportunities to earn a fair share of the world's goods and services. And since there is no world government, then it is not unreasonable that international codes for trade and finance like GATT and MTN (Multilateral Trade Negotiations) be amended to give poor countries a less unequal chance to capital, technology, and trade to achieve a fairer share of the world's goods and services. And I believe it is in the interests of the rich countries to encourage and to enable the poor countries to work and so to earn as big a share of the GDP of the world as they can achieve by their own efforts.

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An Asian saying urges the charitable to teach the poor to catch fish instead of giving them the fish, to avoid further demands on their charity. Hence, I want to record my appreciation for your personal interest which has spurred the German-Singapore Vocational Institute. It is an example of the principle of passing on the skills with which to achieve the better life.

Mr Chancellor, perhaps during your conference in Tokyo later this month, you may find this a not unreasonable principle to urge upon your fellow heads of government from the developed countries. You can reasonably expect your host, Prime Minister Ohira, to support you. He had personally attended UNCTAD V in Manila.

And now can I ask you to join me in a toast to the good health of the Chancellor, to Mrs Schmidt, and to the continued success of the Federal Republic of Germany.

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