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STATEMENT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

In accordance with Articles95 of the Constitution, the Prime Minister, after consulting the Chief Justice, has advised the Acting President to appoint Mr Punch Coomaraswamy, Advocate & Solicitor, whose curriculum vitae is attached, to be a Judge of the Supreme Court as from 10 September 1984.

Mr Coomaraswamy will complete his term of office as Ambassador to the US and go on leave before taking up his new appointment in September.

5 MAY 1984 TIME ISSUED : 1800 HRS

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CURRICULUM VITAE
OF
MR PUNCH COOMARASWAMY

Mr Punch Coomaswamy is serving as Ambassador to the United State of America and is currently accredited to Brazil. He assumed office in Washington in October 1976 and will relinquish duty there in August 1984 to take up his appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Singapore.

He was born in West Malaysia in 1925 and completed his secondary education at the English College in Johor Bahru. He has the degree of Bachelor of Laws with Honors from the University of Nottingham, England. He is a Barrister-at-Law (of Lincoln's Inn, England). He was in law practice in Singapore until 1966.

In 1966, Mr Coomaraswamy become Deputy Speaker and from August of that year was Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore. His first appointment with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was in January 1970 when he was appointed High Commissioner to India.

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From 1970 to 1973 he served as Singapore's High Commissioner to India and during that period he was concurrently accredited to Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. From 1973 to 1976, Mr Coomaraswamy was in Canberra as High Commissioner to Australia. He was concurrently accredited to Fiji.

Mr Coomaraswamy has attended a number of international conferences. Among them were the 21st UN General Assembly (1966), Commonwealth Speakers' Conferences (1966 and 1969 Ottawa), 56th Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference (1968, Lima), the UN Conference on International Law (1971, Geneva) and the UN Conference on Technical Co-operation Amongst Developing Countries (1978, Buenos Aires).

Mr Coomaraswamy is past president of the Singapore Cricket Association, an Honorary Life Member of the Singapore Law Society. Whilst in law practice, he was for six years a member of the Singapore Bar Council. He also was a part-time lecturer in the Law of Evidence and on Professional Conduct and Ethics, respectively at the University of Singapore and the Singapore Board of Legal Education.

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Mr Coomaraswamy received the Public Service Star in 1976 and the Meritorious Service Medal in 1980.

Mr Coomaraswamy and his wife, Kaila, have two sons and a daughter.

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