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SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER MR LEE KUAN YEW

AT THE LUNCHEON HOSTED BY GOVERNOR MAYOR OF

(WEST) BERLIN, MR WALTER MOMPER, ON 2 JUNE 1990

AT SCHOENEGERG CITY HALL, BERLIN

Thank you for the warm welcome extended to me and my delegation.

It is a great honour for me to be in Berlin for a third time. For over four decades, your city has been the beacon of freedom. For twenty-eight years, the Berlin Wall thwarted the aspirations of the citizens of Berlin and of both Germanies to be re-united and free. We share your joy at the breaching of the Berlin Wall.

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Berlin was the epicentre of East-West confrontation. It was a barometer for the state of East-West relations. Now the Cold War is over. Berlin will become the barometer for the progress of German unification. As the bridge between East and West, Berlin symbolises the hope for peace and cooperation in Europe.

We are living through a watershed in the history of Europe and of the world. The division of Europe is coming to an end. There are many challenges and uncertainties ahead but the certainty is that these changes in Europe are irreversible. Berlin will no longer be a divided city, and Germany no more a divided nation. The way the revolution was made by the people in the GDR impressed the world. It is a good beginning of a new chapter for Germany as a democratic nation dedicated to a peaceful and positive role in the emerging order in Europe.

Now ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to rise and join me in a toast to the Governing Mayor, distinguished guests and the citizens of Berlin.

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