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SPEECH BY THE CHIEF MINISTER, MR. LIM YEW HOCK,
AT THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTS EXHI-
BITION AT HAPPY WORLD AT 6 P.M. ON THURSDAY,
AUGUST 8, 1957

It is indeed a real pleasure to me today to be able to extend on behalf of the people of Singapore our warm welcome to the enterprising businessmen who have once again come all the way from Hong Kong to organise and attend this Exhibition of Hong Kong products in Singapore.

This is not the first time that a Hong Kong Exhibition has been held in Singapore. Several Exhibitions held in recent years have already led to a considerable increase in trade between our two islands. The trade that now exists between us is a very valuable one amounting to some \$140 million Malayan dollars annually. We should not, however, be content with this as there is, I am sure, room for greater expansion. In fact, it is precisely with this object that this Exhibition by the Chinese Manufacturers' Union of Hong Kong is being held.

This Exhibition has on display some 400 items of Hong Kong-manufactured products consisting mostly of daily necessities and is, I am informed, on a far greater scale than that of previous Exhibitions held here by Hong Kong manufacturers. The growth of industrialisation in Hong Kong in the last few years and the increasing role this plays in the highly competitive world market is no mean achievement and there is much that we in Singapore who are also striving to establish more local industries, can learn from your experience in this field. I am confident that with capital playing its part, Singapore can well hope to achieve the same measure of success in its industries as it has already achieved in its entrepot trade.

I do hope that during their present visit the Hong Kong manufacturers and businessmen will find time to visit some of our local industries and see for themselves the considerable expansion in industrial production that has taken place in Singapore over the last few years. I am particularly glad to note that some of them have already established local factories in Singapore. We are happy to have them with us and I hope that others will follow their lead. My Government will continue to give them every encouragement and assistance.

Hong Kong and Singapore are both vitally interested in the expansion of their economies and the achievement of a high standard of living for their growing population. To realise this aim it is essential that our trade and industry must continue to grow and the traditional close commercial ties between our two territories maintained.

The organisers of this Exhibition are to be congratulated on their enterprise. It is with real pleasure that I now declare this Exhibition open.

AUGUST 8, 1957.

(Time issued 1600 hours).