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WE ARE HERE THIS EVENING TO WELCOME TO WASHINGTON

THE DISTINGUISHED PRIME MINISTER OF SINGAPORE, MR. LEE KUAN YEW,

AND MRS. LEE.

REGRETTABLY, I HAVE NOT YET HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT
SINGAPORE, NOR, UNTIL THIS MORNING, DID I HAVE THE PLEASURE
OF MEETING THE PRIME MINISTER. I KNOW OF THE COUNTRY
AND OF THE MAN BY REPUTATION.

BUT THE REPUTATION OF BOTH CARRIES FAR. IN ITS BRIEF

DECADE OF EXISTENCE AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION, SINGAPORE HAS

COMPILED AN EXTRAORDINARY RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.

ASIAN TRADITIONS HAVE BEEN BLENDED SUCCESSFULLY WITH MODERN

TECHNOLOGY TO PRODUCE A PROSPEROUS AND PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY

WITHOUT SACRIFICING A DISTINCTIVE CULTURAL HERITAGE.

SINGAPORE HAS BUILT FOR ITSELF A POSITION OF RESPECT AND
INFLUENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA -- AND THROUGHOUT THE REST
OF THE WORLD.

AS THE PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT OF THIS SUCCESS,

PRIME MINISTER LEE HAS BECOME WIDELY KNOWN NOT ONLY FOR WHAT

SINGAPORE HAS ACCOMPLISHED UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, BUT ALSO

FOR HIS GRASP OF THE BROADER INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

OVER THE LAST DECADE, HE HAS ACHIEVED A SPECIAL STATUS AMONG
WORLD LEADERS FOR HIS THOUGHTFUL AND ARTICULATE INTERPRETATIONS
OF WORLD EVENTS. HE IS A MAN OF VISION, WHOSE VIEWS ARE VITALLY
RELEVANT TO WORLD ISSUES AND WHOSE ADVICE IS WIDELY SOUGHT.
WHEN PRIME MINISTER LEE SPEAKS, WE ALL LISTEN CAREFULLY.
AND WE COME AWAY WISER FOR THE EXPERIENCE.

I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY

TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH PRIME MINISTER LEE AT THIS TIME.

A TRAGEDY HAS BEFALLEN INDOCHINA. IT IS AFFECTING ALL THE

COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, AS WELL AS ALL OF US WHO ARE DEEPLY

CONCERNED FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AND FOR THE CAUSE OF

FREEDOM. IT HAS MADE THE PROBLEMS OF ASIA MORE DIFFICULT.

BUT WE ARE DETERMINED TO DEAL WITH THOSE PROBLEMS,

AND WE WILL DEAL WITH THEM.

PRIME MINISTER LEE'S VISIT GIVES US THE BENEFIT OF HIS EXPERIENCE AND HIS WISDOM IN ASSESSING THE NEW SITUATION WE FACE. IT ALSO GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSURE HIM THAT OUR COMMITMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ELSEWHERE WILL BE HONORED, AND THAT OUR CONCERN FOR THE SECURITY AND WELFARE OF THE FREE NATIONS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA IS UNDIMINISHED.

MR. PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. LEE, IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE

FOR US TO HAVE YOU WITH US HERE THIS EVENING, AND AT LAST TO HAVE

HAD THE CHANCE TO MEET YOU. I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS

OCCASION FOR A LONG TIME.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I ASK YOU NOW TO RAISE YOUR

GLASSES AND JOIN WITH ME IN OFFERING A TOAST TO THE PRIME MINISTER

OF SINGAPORE AND MRS. LEE.

END OF TEXT