The original documents are located in Box 8, folder “5/8/75 - Toast for Lee Dinner” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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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