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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 19, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: MARGI VANDERHYE *MSV*
SUBJECT: Announcement of Prime Minister Lee's Visit

The following announcement should be read or posted today confirming the Singapore announcement already released. Back-up Q's and A's are attached.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The President has invited Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore to meet with him at the White House on May 8, and will host a dinner in the Prime Minister's honor that evening. Prime Minister Lee will be making an unofficial visit to the United States following the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in Jamaica. He also plans to visit other cities in the United States.

BACK-UP Q's and A's

Q - When was Prime Minister Lee last in the US?

A - In April 1973, Prime Minister Lee on an unofficial visit to the US met with President Nixon, who hosted a dinner for him.

Q - What other cities will Prime Minister Lee visit?

A - New York, Cambridge (Harvard), and Chicago.

Q - Is he returning directly to Singapore after his US visit?

A - Yes, so far as we are aware.

Q - Will Mrs. Lee accompany him?

A - Yes.

Q - What other US officials will Prime Minister Lee be meeting with?

A - So far, the other principal US officials are Secretary Kissinger, Secretary Schlesinger, and CIA Director Colby.

Q - Prime Minister Lee said in a speech in New Zealand recently that the Nixon Doctrine died with Watergate, and that Thailand would not have to seek a political accommodation with Peking and Hanoi. He also stated that the US is no longer the dominant power in Southeast Asia, and that the contest in Southeast Asia will now be mainly between the PRC and the Soviet Union. Could you comment?

A - The President made clear in his State of the World address that the US would honor all its commitments and stand by its friends. He asked Congress urgently to provide the amount of military, economic, and humanitarian assistance to South Vietnam which he believes is required to stabilize the situation there.

As a Pacific power, the US is determined to continue to play an essential role in providing the basic security and stability vital to the region.

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Posting

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