

**The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “Singapore - Prime Minister Lee” of the National Security Adviser’s Presidential Correspondence with Foreign Leaders Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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3814

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 25, 1975

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

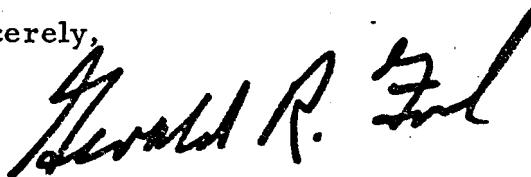
Thank you very much for your kind letter of May 27. I found your visit to America and our conversations in Washington refreshing and enlightening.

I was not at all embarrassed by your toast at the White House dinner nor by anything else that you said during the visit. In fact, I very much appreciate your forthrightness and candor. It is reassuring to know that Asia has leaders like you, who have a solid perception of the interdependence of security and the need for the Free World to maintain a position of strength. I can assure you that we attach great importance to the security and peace of Singapore and its neighbors.

The White House swimming pool is now in use. During your next visit, perhaps you can join me for a relaxing swim. In the meantime, I would be delighted if you would continue to give me the benefit of your views on Southeast Asia. Please feel free to write at any time.

Mrs. Ford joins me in extending best wishes to you and Mrs. Lee.

Sincerely,



The Honorable  
Lee Kuan Yew  
Prime Minister of the  
Republic of Singapore



FROM ACTION OFFICER TO:

1) ~~DAVIS REVIEW~~

2) ~~SECRETARIAT~~

Rm 385

Step #1 not required if not moving to  
White House - Delete "DAVIS"

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Jack Murphy

This was mis-  
placed. Be sure  
to date letter  
prior to it's  
departure

JUL 25<sup>TH</sup>

JMD

THE WHITE HOUSE

3814

WASHINGTON

ACTION

July 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *K*

SUBJECT: Reply to Letter from Singapore  
Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has written you a chatty and candid letter in which he again expresses admiration for your leadership and conveys his thoughts on some current events. The Prime Minister reiterates that the consequences of the collapse of Indochina are very grave, but he does not believe the United States will turn away from either Japan or Southeast Asia.

The Prime Minister particularly praises your handling of the Mayaguez affair. He notes that all leaders in Southeast Asia would be dismayed if an American President were meekly to do what liberals in the media advocate. He expresses the hope that you will not think it presumptuous if in the future he passes his views on Southeast Asia to you either through Secretary Schlesinger or myself.

We have prepared a reply reiterating your own admiration for the Prime Minister and welcoming his views on Southeast Asia.

The letter to Prime Minister Lee has been cleared by Paul Theis' office.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter to Prime Minister Lee at Tab A.



*mt  
REH  
IE*

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

June 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: W. R. SMYSER *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: President's Response to Letter  
from Singapore Prime Minister  
Lee Kuan Yew

*Tab I folder  
7-14-75*

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has written the President a chatty and candid letter in which he conveys some of his views about current events. We have prepared a reply in which the President reiterates his admiration for Lee, reasserts the importance which we attach to the security and peace of Singapore and its neighbors and welcomes the Prime Minister's future views on Southeast Asian affairs.

The letter to Prime Minister Lee has been cleared with Paul Theis' office.

Recommendation:

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

*Brent - note that Rumseyfold  
saw Lee. He cannot  
pass messages through him*



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dick -

3814

Put more of a summary  
in the memo to the President -  
Lee's comments on other  
Asian countries, Myaguzi,  
etc.

Bunt 8/1/75

JT

Prime Minister  
Singapore

27 May 1975

Dear President Ford

It was a rare privilege to have met you and heard you speak your mind on America and the position of your Administration after the grave setbacks in Cambodia and Vietnam.

I trust I did not embarrass you by my toast at the White House dinner, nor by what I said on "Face The Nation". From time to time, I have to call a spade a spade even if Scotty Reston did not like it.

America is still the anchorman of the free world in this three-cornered tug-of-war between the two communist centres of power and the free world. Hence, every major crisis, sooner or later, lands on the tray of the President of the United States. I felt reassured after meeting you. Your robust health guarantees that emotional ballast which has enabled you to tackle successive crises without getting over-tensed.

It is bad enough to have your known adversaries try to do you in. But to have allies going for each other like Greece and Turkey, or to see Portugal turning sour, makes life as President of the United States less than the splendid excitement and grandeur people generally presume it to be.

I hope your swimming pool will be ready soon. It will give you that necessary daily relaxation. I myself find it an extremely valuable release of nervous tensions, and I face nothing like the degree of heat concentrated upon your office most of the time.

I had good meetings with your Secretaries of State, Defense, and also with Donald Rumsfeld. I hope you will not think me presumptuous if, occasionally, I should feel compelled to pass my views on Southeast Asia to you through them.

Whatever the mass media may say, the consequences of what has happened, are very grave. I do not believe that America can turn away from Japan, and hence downgrade the importance of the Straits of Malacca, and the three littoral states, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.



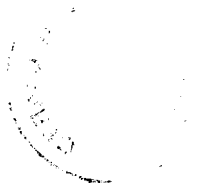


It was typical of the mass media and Congress to praise you over the Mayaguez affair when it evoked popular response. But when the casualties increased as they were ascertained, they turned critical. I suppose 30 years of public life must have prepared you for all this. Nevertheless, you may take some consolation in the knowledge that most ordinary people in Southeast Asia, and certainly all the leaders in office, hold America in high esteem. Regardless of what some may have to say publicly, all would be dismayed if an American President were to meekly do what the liberals in the media advocate.

With all good wishes to Mrs Ford & you  
from my wife & I.

Yours Sincerely  
Leekwanjar.

The Honourable Gerald Ford  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington DC



GU/AM

PRB

3814

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of May 27. I found your visit to America and our conversations in Washington refreshing and enlightening. Having long admired you ~~from afar~~ <sup>from a distance</sup>, my expectations ~~for our personal meetings~~ were more than realized.

I was not at all embarrassed by your toast at the White House dinner nor by anything else that you said during the visit. In fact, I appreciate very much ~~a leader who calls a spade a spade~~ <sup>of your forthrightness and candor.</sup> It is reassuring to know that Asia has leaders ~~such as yourself~~ <sup>like you,</sup> who have a solid perception of the inter-dependence of security and the need for the Free World to maintain a position of strength. I can assure you that we attach great importance to the security and peace of Singapore and its neighbors.

I expect that the White House swimming pool will be ready for occupancy this summer. During your next visit, perhaps you can join me in a relaxing swim. In the meantime, I would be delighted if you would continue to ~~provide us~~ <sup>give, The benefit?</sup> your views on Southeast Asia. Please feel free to write to me at any time.

Mrs. Ford joins me in extending best wishes to you and Mrs. Lee.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

The Honorable  
Lee Kuan Yew  
Prime Minister of the  
Republic of Singapore



13

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of May 27. I found your visit to America and our conversations in Washington refreshing and enlightening.

I was not at all embarrassed by your toast at the White House dinner nor by anything else that you said during the visit. In fact, I *very much* appreciate ~~very much~~ your forthrightness and candor. It is reassuring to know that Asia has leaders like you, who have a solid perception of the inter-dependence of security and the need for the Free World to maintain a position of strength. I can assure you that we attach great importance to the security and peace of Singapore and its neighbors.

I expect that the White House swimming pool will be ready for occupancy this summer. During your next visit, perhaps you can join me *for* ~~in~~ a relaxing swim. In the meantime, I would be delighted if you would continue to give *me* ~~us~~ the benefit of your views on Southeast Asia. Please feel free to write to ~~me~~ at any time.

GERALD R. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER  
SUBJECT: Reply to Letter from Singapore  
Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has written you a chatty and candid letter in which he again expresses admiration for your leadership and conveys his views on some current events. He also expresses the hope that you will not think it presumptuous if in the future he passes his views on Southeast Asia to you either through Secretary Schlesinger, or myself.

We have prepared a reply reiterating your own admiration for the Prime Minister and welcoming his views on Southeast Asia.

The letter to Prime Minister Lee has been cleared by Paul Theis' office.

Recommendation:

That you sign the letter to Prime Minister Lee at Tab A.



NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD			LOG NDR		INITIAL ACTION O	
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR	2503814		Ache	
6	2	6	3	12				

*Leider*

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES \_\_\_\_\_ FROM: KISSINGER, W \_\_\_\_\_ S/S \_\_\_\_\_ UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT \_\_\_\_\_

KISSINGER X COLBY, W \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ LOU NO FORN NODI

SCOWCROFT \_\_\_\_\_ SCHLESINGER, J \_\_\_\_\_ C EYES ONLY EXDI

DAVIS \_\_\_\_\_ ST EX SEC \_\_\_\_\_ S CODEWORD

TS SENSITIVE X

REFERENCE: CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE

SUBJECT: *Rec ltr to Lee Joo Im Lee (son of Lee) of Singapore re their request for info re his being re Southeast Asian*

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION			REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
	ACTION	INFO		
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT		<u>X</u>		MEMO FOR HAK
STAFF SECRETARY				MEMO FOR PRES <i>if appropriate</i> <u>X</u>
FAR EAST <i>Ache</i>	<u>X</u>		<u>X</u>	REPLY FOR _____
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA				APPROPRIATE ACTION
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA				MEMO TO _____
EUROPE / CANADA				RECOMMENDATIONS
LATIN AMERICA				JOINT MEMO
UNITED NATIONS				REFER TO _____ FOR: _____
ECONOMIC				ANY ACTION NECESSARY?
SCIENTIFIC				CONCURRENCE
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				DUE DATE: <u>6-10</u>
NSC PLANNING				COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
CONGRESSIONAL				<i>9-31 ltr was misplced. therefore change CRT to reflect update.</i>
OCEANS POLICY				
INTELLIGENCE				

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
6/13		Hak	<u>X</u>	<i>has to go ltr to Lee Kuan</i>	
7/2		NSC/5		<i>Amussen - Further action per 5/27/75 note</i>	
7/7		Hak	<u>X</u>	<i>has to go ltr to Lee Kuan</i>	
7/7		Hak	<u>X</u>	<i>has to go ltr to Lee Kuan</i>	
7/14		Pres		<i>Decision</i>	
7/25		NSC/5		<i>Pres ltr to Lee Kuan</i>	
7/25		Pres		<i>request for info to Capital (7-17)</i>	
7/25		C		<i>has to go ltr to Lee Kuan</i>	

NSC/S INSTR

DISPATCH 7/31/75 via State pouch

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: Leonard, M

CROSS REF W/ 2502860

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: YES FOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS: \_\_\_\_\_

AUG 11 1975 BY AO

CRT ID: \_\_\_\_\_ SA SF

OPEN AO HP NS

CLOSE \_\_\_\_\_ WH EP

PA DV