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3814

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 25, 1975

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

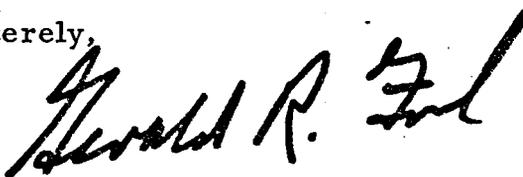
Thank you very much for your kind letter of May 27. I found your visit to America and our conversations in Washington refreshing and enlightening.

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 25TH

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/CM

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~~ ^{from a distance}, 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~~ ^{of your forthrightness and candor.} It is reassuring to know that Asia has leaders ~~such as yourself~~ ^{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 in a relaxing swim. In the meantime, I would be delighted if you would continue to ~~provide us~~ ^{give, The benefit?} 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.

presumptuous

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 assistance regarding his business in Southeast Asia*

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>Smyser - 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 DISP

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 DOC

CRT ID: _____ SA SF _____

OPEN DOC HP NS _____

CLOSE _____ WH EP _____

PA DV _____