

18/09/1998

Singapore urged to make firm stand

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Singapore Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong should officially distance itself from the views of Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Parti Gerakan central committee member Dr S. Vijayarajnam said today the republic's leadership should state that it had nothing to do with the disparaging remarks made by Lee in his memoirs.

"This will certainly go some way in assuring Malaysians that Singapore is indeed keen in fostering better relations.

"But to just sit back and let this war of words continue is a negative stance and will be construed as they (Singapore's leaders) silently agreeing with what he (Lee) says," he said in a statement.

Vijayarajnam said being a statesman, it was most unbecoming of Lee to bring up old issues with unhealthy insinuations.

"It is not helpful also to keep on harping on the water supply and other unpleasant episodes.

"There is no need to open up old wounds, especially at this time when both nations are facing economic difficulties."

He said both nations had to complement rather than compete with each other.

"Therefore, the 'prosper thy neighbour' policy advocated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad should be supported."

(END)