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Goh: We're agreeable to revision as part of package

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Singapore is agreeable to a revision of the price of water sold to the republic but only as part of a package involving other issues, its Prime Minister, Goh Chok Tong, said today.

The Singapore High Commission here in a faxed statement quoting Goh, who was responding to reporters' questions over Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's comments on the issue, said:

"Well, there must have been a misunderstanding on Dr Mahathir's part or he could be given the wrong information. When I met him, I told him I was agreeable to a price revision of raw water under current water agreements as part of a total package.

"That has always been Singapore's approach, that remains my approach. In other words, I'm agreeable to a price revision, negotiation, but as part of the package.

"However, since my return from Kuala Lumpur, I received a letter from Dr Mahathir on 10th October. The letter was dated 7th October. And in the letter, Dr Mahathir said that he would like to discontinue the package approach in these negotiations. So I'm studying the letter and in the process of drafting him a reply."

He made these remarks to reporters at the 70th anniversary dinner of the Singapore Confederation of Industries at the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore yesterday.