

**SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AT
THE MEETING OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE ON MERGER BETWEEN SINGA-
PORE AND THE FEDERATION IN KUALA
LUMPUR ON 28TH FEBRUARY, 1963**

I would like, on behalf of the Federation Government, to welcome the Prime Minister of Singapore¹, his colleague and members of the Singapore delegation to this First Plenary Session of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Merger between Singapore and the Federation. Strictly speaking, we should have had a meeting of this Committee when it was first established; but due to many reasons, and most important of all due to my pre-occupation with the Inter-Governmental Committee on Sabah and Sarawak, it has not been possible to arrange a meeting of this Committee until today.

However, the Working Party has been meeting and has resolved a number of issues. I should like, therefore, on behalf of this Committee, to congratulate the Working Party, particularly the Chairman, Encik Ghazali, for the good work that they have done. They have reached agreement on a number of points and it is left for us today to consider and resolve the remaining few issues. Although these are important and controversial, and, if I may say so, delicate, I am sure given the goodwill, understanding and spirit of co-operative between our two Governments, which have always existed over the years, we can come to complete agreement on these issues. I am sure all of us around this table appreciate that if the Malaysia that we intend to create is to be a reality and to have any meaning at all, there must be complete understanding and co-operation among all the territories that comprise this unit. Indeed, we cannot build a united and happy Malaysia otherwise.

1 Mr. Lee Kuan Yew.