

GREETINGS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER  
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SINGAPORE<sup>1</sup> ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SATELLITE  
EARTH STATION AT SENTOSA, SINGAPORE,  
ON 23RD OCTOBER, 1971

Your Excellency,

I am delighted and privileged to be able to exchange personal greetings with Your Excellency "live" on television on the occasion of the official operating of your Satellite Earth Station at Sentosa. I consider this as an important milestone in the history of modern Singapore particularly in the field of communications, which is yet another symbol of your scientific and technological achievement.

With the opening of this Satellite Earth Station and the commissioning of our Satellite Earth Station in Kuantan on 6th April, 1970, we can say that our two countries have finally arrived and being officially launched into the Satellite Age. Along with it, comes the awareness of how small our planet Earth really is. The traditional notions of distance and remoteness have now become obsolete for, through the phenomenon of inter-satellite communications, events occurring thousands of miles away can now unfold right before our eyes on the television screen at the turn of a switch.

Our two countries are at the focal point of Southeast Asia. Indeed, the opening of this Satellite Earth Station more than emphasizes the central aspect of our position for, with our two Satellite Earth Stations, we are now also at the hub of the network of communications connecting the region with the rest of the world. I think, Your Excellency, the emphasis our two countries have placed on advancement in the field of telecommunications points to one clear conclusion—our common thirst for information or knowledge and a determination to keep abreast with scientific and technological progress of the world.

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<sup>1</sup>H.E. Sheares

Your Excellency, on this auspicious occasion, I wish to take the opportunity here, on behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia, and my ownself, to extend our heartiest congratulations and warm greetings to Your Excellency, the Government and people of Singapore.