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OA/ID Number: 13789
Folder ID Number: 13789-006

Folder Title:
Singapore and American Business Community--Draft for Singapore Lecture 1/4/92 [OA 8332] [6]

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Draft for Sing Lecture

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520



BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: December 6, 1991

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NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: ~~Nine~~ Ten

REMARKS:

As promised, I am forwarding two separate sets of suggested themes for the Singapore Lecture, which is envisioned as a regional (Southeast Asia) foreign-policy address and is the major speech of the Singapore stop.

Both documents were passed to the NSC Asia staff some time ago, but we've had no reaction.

Others as available.

*SMN/TS:
This is a bootleg.
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on January 4

[Handwritten signature]

-- 31 years ago this month, on a cold, snowy day in Washington, newly elected American President John Kennedy articulated Americas commitment to our friends and allies throughout the world. That we would stand with them in their efforts to resist Communism, embrace freedom and support efforts to develop economically and thus improve the lives of their people.

-- It was a commitment that was to bear a heavy price, over 58,000 dead in Indochina and billions of dollars spent on assistance and maintaining a military presence in the region.

-- But it was a commitment that has been shared by Republican and Democratic presidents alike.

-- It is appropriate that standing here now in a country which represents one of the most remarkable economic success stories in the world, we can look back and see that the outcome we all worked and sacrificed for has indeed become a reality.

-- It is with great pride that I say that history will record that America did indeed keep its commitment to its friends in SE Asia and that together we have built a region which is at once free, at peace, and experiencing unprecedented prosperity, part of the new world order which offers the promise of enduring global stability.

-- To judge just how far we have come and to see what we have accomplished, it is instructive to look back 25 years and recall the situation in SE Asia at the time Singapore was first charting its independent course.

-- In January 1967, the concern was about the rapid spread of Communist ideology. Almost every country in SE Asia had or was about to have an active Communist insurgency.

-- As the war in Vietnam raged, from Jakarta to Rangoon and from Bangkok to Manila, the worry was about falling dominoes. The nightmare vision was of a radical ideology being imposed throughout the region.

-- It is important to keep in mind that while there was a large U.S. military presence in the region in the mid 60's, U.S. economic interaction with Southeast Asia was still rather small.

-- On the eve of the Tet offensive, the U.S. had a higher trade turnover with Latin America than with East Asia.

-- Today, the situation is dramatically reversed. The steadfastness of our military commitments and the

In 1975 there were about 300,000 T.V. sets in Indonesia, today there are 7 million (and it seems at least that many more for sale in all of Singapore shopping malls.)

Direct dial long distance phones and FAX machines means someone in Manila, the Philippines can place an order in Manila, Iowa in less than a minute.

-- We understand each other because of the flow of people between us.

In 1975 there was only slightly more than a million Americans of Southeast Asian origin.

Today that figure has quadrupled to over 4 million, including one senior member of my White House staff Sicwan Siv who survived the horrors of the Khmer Rouge run Cambodia.

Based on this population of SE Asian origin, the U.S. would rank as the fifth largest ASEAN country.

There are more Lao in the U.S. than in Vientiane

There are more Filipinos in California than in Cebu.

-- All of these developments - people telecommunications, jet aircraft, trade, investment, security commitments, and common belief in economics and freedom have created a web of interaction, knitting us together as never before.

-- Our challenge is to use this structure to promote continued peace, stability and increased economic progress. And common efforts to deal with the challenges we face in terms of the environment, narcotics, human rights and other scientific and technical areas such as public health.

-- There are two mechanisms which promote and enhance this new reality:

The ASEAN-Post Ministerial Dialogue in which our foreign ministers and those of ASEAN's other dialogue partners meet to discuss issues and coordinate approaches to dealing with problems;

and

APEC, which offers the increasingly real promise of cooperation on the full range of economic issues across the entire Asian-Pacific region.

stability which they promoted, gave the countries of the region time to grow economically and deal effectively with the political challenge. Having collapsed in Europe and the Soviet Union, Communist is no longer a viable threat, and is acknowledged as a failed and bankrupt economic and political philosophy.

-- Democracy, personal freedom and free market economies are demonstrably the keys to real improvement in the quality of people's lives.

-- And this has been accompanied by an explosion in trade between the U.S. and Southeast Asia, particularly the six ASEAN countries.

U.S. two way trade with Singapore grew from 2 billion dollars to 20 billion dollars since the end of the Vietnam War.

In the same period, Thailand went from 700 million dollars to 9 billion dollars.

-- This has made the U.S. ASEAN's number one customer. We take one fifth of all of ASEAN's exports, while ASEAN imports from the U.S. have increased 1600 percent since 1975.

-- As a result, today U.S. two way trade with ASEAN stands at over 46 billion dollars - just about equal to our commerce with Germany - and exceeded by only three other U.S. trading partners.

-- To put it in better perspective, in 1990 the U.S. exported:

More to Singapore than to Italy or Spain

More to Thailand than to India

More to Malaysia than the Soviet Union

More to Indonesia than all the rest of Eastern Europe put together.

-- But it is not just trade that has brought us closer together.

-- Satellites and the expansion of telecommunication technology mean that more messages and images are going back and forth between our people than ever before.

-- Having invested so much in this region in terms of American lives and national treasure and having attained, together with you, so many of our policy goals, the U.S. is not now going to turn its back on South East Asia.

-- The U.S. is committed to meeting its obligations in SE Asia and will continue to play the positive role by maintaining our military presence, even with our three year phase out from Subic Bay.

Our new Access Agreement with Singapore contributes importantly to this goal.

-- The U.S. is committed to a successful transition to a freely elected government in Cambodia. In that regard, I am today announcing that the U.S. has lifted its trade embargo and all other economic restrictions against Cambodia. This should permit increased economic activity which will help solidify and maintain the process.

-- The U.S. is prepared to move forward in our relationship with Vietnam, provided that progress continues to be made in Cambodia and on our POW/MIA issue.

The countries of Indochina have real promise for economic growth if there can finally be an end to violence and they join the rest of the region in emphasizing development.

-- The U.S. is committed to working productively with our friends in addressing global problems and so therefore I am today announcing a new environmental initiative aimed at enhancing our work together in preserving our planet and natural resources.

-- We are truly embarking on a new era - one in which the last remnants of the Cold War are being put behind us

-- For America, our Vietnam syndrome is a thing of the past.

POSSIBLE THEMES FOR SPEECH IN SINGAPORESecurity/New World Order

-- My generation fought a world war -- in Asia and the Pacific, in Europe, in North Africa. Those of us who experienced that war vowed that it would be the last world war, that the forces of totalitarianism must be resisted and their aggressive designs frustrated. As visionaries, we founded the United Nations; as prudent men and women, we also established a structure of alliances to contain totalitarianism.

-- In the largest sense, we have achieved our goals. Despite -- and perhaps in some ways because of -- the advent of weapons of mass destruction, the threat of global war today is smaller than at any time since 1945; indeed, it has almost vanished. The specter of world communism has disappeared; state-controlled economies are discredited; the democratic tide is higher than it has ever been, with elected governments in many nations on all continents; the advantages of the free-market system are evident worldwide.

-- For many years the United States, by its military presence and its influence, has fostered stability in several parts of the world. Nowhere have the benefits of that stability been greater than here in East Asia, where many nations have prospered to a degree beyond anything that might have been imagined 20 years ago: first Japan; then the Dynamic Asian Economies of Singapore, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan; and now Malaysia and Thailand. Others such as Indonesia are following rapidly. Economic growth in East Asia today far outstrips growth anywhere else in the world.

-- The alliance structure succeeded in containing totalitarianism and preventing global conflict, but it did not preclude smaller wars or other kinds of regional or local conflict. We are still dealing with some of those situations, but the end of superpower rivalry has made the search for solutions more productive. We have reached a stage at which we can realistically discuss what I have called the New World Order, under which nations will resolve their disputes without resort to the use of force.

-- We have already seen the United Nations take on new vitality and begin to exercise the role its founders intended for it, most notably in rolling back the invasion of a small state, Kuwait, by a much larger one, Iraq. We have enjoyed good cooperation from the Soviet Union in convening a historic Middle East peace conference.

-- Here in Southeast Asia multilateral diplomacy has achieved what we trust will be a notable and lasting success: the case of Cambodia. I will not try to trace here the history of that

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unhappy country -- a history in which the United States itself is of course involved. But I want to record my appreciation for the solidarity of Singapore and four other ASEAN members with Thailand, the nation immediately threatened in the 1970s and 1980s by the potential spillover of combat. More recently, another ASEAN member, Indonesia, together with France, has led the search for a settlement, in which the four other Permanent Members of the Security Council have joined, together with the United Nations, Australia, Japan and other governments. That long search reached a milestone six weeks ago in Paris with the signing of the settlement documents.

-- A settlement in Cambodia truly means the start of a new era. For virtually the first time since World War II, Southeast Asia is without serious conflict. For the United States, that settlement makes possible a process of healing in our relations with the states of Indochina: representation in Cambodia for the first time since 1975, accredited to the Supreme National Council headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk; a restoration of our diplomatic relations with Laos -- never broken -- to the pre-1975 level; and the start of the process of normalization with Vietnam. Just how far and how fast we move in that process with Vietnam will depend on progress in resolving the cases of our military personnel missing in action -- but the trend in recent months has been decidedly positive.

-- For the people and the governments of Indochina, the settlement in Cambodia holds great promise. The embargos on trade and investment which many governments imposed can now be lifted; travel and communications can be opened up; the international financial institutions will be able to lend freely for worthwhile projects. Most important, perhaps, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia will be able to emerge from their isolation and, if they chose, free themselves of the policy constraints that have hindered their development. In fact, Laos and Vietnam in recent times have both shown a receptiveness to foreign private investment. The United States looks forward to this new era, as, I am sure, do the peoples of Singapore and the other five ASEAN nations.

-- Clearly, then, the situation in East Asia has improved in recent months, as has the world situation generally. But we remain in a transitional phase; we cannot wish away continuing threats to peace and stability in such areas as the Korean peninsula, and we cannot rule out sudden threats to world peace and the rule of law such as the one that arose in the Persian Gulf only sixteen months ago.

-- For those reasons, the United States will remain engaged militarily in East Asia and the Pacific for the foreseeable future. Here, as in Europe, we will take advantage of reduced

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levels of threat and of increases in the speed, range and lift capability of our ships and aircraft to slim down our forward-deployed forces and the number of our bases. The character of our presence will change; we will place more reliance on access to a larger number of facilities owned and controlled by others. Our total numbers may be reduced, but our presence in the region could be more widespread and more frequent.

-- The agreement signed in Tokyo a year ago by then-Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew and Vice President Dan Quayle exemplifies this new type of arrangement. Under its terms, our ships and aircraft -- based elsewhere -- are making increased use of Singaporean military facilities. They exercise jointly with Singapore's forces as well as on their own. They are gaining familiarity with the geography and the operating conditions of this part of Asia. We are open to the possibility of similar arrangements with other nations of the region.

-- The eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in June settled the fate of Clark Air Base there. If we are able to remain at Subic Bay, we shall do so, but if not we shall continue to honor our treaty commitments. We have already relocated headquarters, troops and equipment to Guam. Meanwhile, United States forces will remain in Japan and Korea. Our treaty relationship with Australia, the country I shall visit next, is stronger than it has ever been. We hope the day will come when New Zealand allows us to resume defense cooperation under the historic ANZUS alliance.

-- In short, we will stay on the scene in East Asia. The test of our security policy, or of any nation's, is not the size or location of our forces; rather, it is the ability to deal with any and all likely threats to the peace, and to deal quickly and decisively with unpredictable crises, and that is precisely how the United States and its partners in the multinational coalition -- acting through the United Nations -- dealt with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Economic Cooperation

-- Interdependence and cooperation are equally important in the world economy. That lesson is fully understood here in Singapore, where total trade is three (??) times the value of your gross domestic product. If the prosperity that so much of East Asia already enjoys is to continue and spread, we must have an open global trading system. To reach that goal, we need a framework for economic integration, and we must avoid regional fragmentation.

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-- Trade across the Pacific has expanded dramatically in recent years, in step with dramatic economic growth in many East Asian countries. Some ten years ago America's trade with the Pacific surpassed our trade across the Atlantic; today, it is nearly one-third larger. The ASEAN countries, taken together, constitute America's fifth-largest trading partner. Singapore alone is a bigger export market for U.S. goods than Italy, Spain or the USSR. Nations on the eastern rim of the Pacific, from Mexico to Chile, are eager to join in this booming trans-Pacific commerce. I urge U.S. firms take advantage of these dynamic markets and to redouble their efforts to export to and invest in the ASEAN countries.

-- The Pacific Basin is a natural trading region, and it is logical that the governments of the region concert to promote that trade by eliminating barriers and establishing common policies. An excellent forum for doing so already exists: the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, grouping. The concept had occurred to a number of people in several countries, but it was Prime Minister Bob Hawke of Australia who developed the idea and convoked the first APEC ministerial meeting in Canberra two years ago.

-- APEC has since met ^{twice more} ~~twice~~ here in Singapore ~~last year~~ ^{in 1990} and again last ~~month~~ in Seoul. Its original group of twelve participants has grown substantially with the simultaneous addition of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and APEC can look forward to further growth in the years ahead.

-- APEC is performing many useful functions, but none is more important than mobilizing the support of all fifteen participants for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations to update and extend the system known as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The nations of APEC are convinced that the GATT system must cover world trade in agricultural products, as it has long covered manufactured goods, and that it must be extended to new realms such as intellectual property rights, services, and investment.

-- The alternative is a likely failure of the global trading system, a reversion to exclusionary trading blocs, and, eventually, the constriction of world trade. It is incumbent on all of us -- in North America, in Asia, in Europe -- to overcome parochial interests, abandon protectionist rules and tactics, and expose our economies to the rigors of competition.

-- Even while we pursue reform of the global system in the Uruguay Round, we can reduce and eliminate barriers to trade with our immediate neighbors. That is what the United States and Canada are doing right now, and what we and Canada propose

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to do with Mexico, thereby creating a North American Free Trade Area, or NAFTA, which will have few internal barriers and will be more accessible than at present to other world traders such as Singapore.

-- Thailand has proposed that ASEAN establish a free-trade area of its own over the next fifteen years, and the other five governments have agreed. Such action is the direct parallel of what we in North America are doing in NAFTA, and the United States applauds this decision by the ASEAN nations.

The Spread of Democracy

-- The most inspiring single event of the last few years was the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. The Wall symbolized the worst of totalitarianism, and its destruction stands for the desire of people everywhere to control their destinies and to be governed only by their own consent.

-- To a gratifying degree, that is happening. The democratic impulse is alive, whether fed by relative prosperity, as seemed to be the case in China, or by economic failure, as in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. And in many places the impulse is flourishing. In recent years elected governments have come to office everywhere from the Philippines to Poland and from Nicaragua to Mongolia.

-- There are basic human rights, universally recognized though not universally observed, but there is no copyright on democracy and no one form of government or set of practices to which every nation must adhere. The United States recognizes the legitimacy of diversity.

-- What the United States cannot condone, however, is the suppression of the popular will -- and that is what has occurred in Burma, where the military leadership permitted elections last year but, when the results proved not to the military's liking, refused to allow the winners to take their rightful seats and organize a government. So long as this situation continues, the people of Burma will remain victims, subject to torture and intimidation and deprived of the chance to share in the general prosperity and well-being which so many of their neighbors already enjoy.

(NEEDS CONCLUSION)