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Cable Address:

Telephone:

MFA. 072:380/3/1

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
SINGAPORE.

18th February, 1966.

Dear Pang Boon,

Sorry for the delay in replying to your letter of 2nd February, 1966. Herewith my suggestion for the pledge for your Flag Raising Ceremony:-

"We, as citizens of Singapore, pledge ourselves to forget differences of race, language and religion and become one united people; to build a democratic society where justice and equality will prevail and where we will seek happiness and progress by helping one another."

Yours sincerely,

S. Rajaratnam
(S. Rajaratnam)

Mr. Ong Pang Boon,
Minister for Education,
Singapore.

See 55
PAS/A, get a Chinese translation to see how it reads.
Gf 18 / 2/2

23. 18 Feb 1966: Raja's letter to education minister Ong Pang Boon proposing the text for a students' pledge of allegiance to the flag. It would form the basis of the National Pledge.



24. Mar 1966: Setting a pragmatic basis for Singapore–US relations with an agreement on investment guarantees between the two countries. Raja and American Consul-in-charge Richard H. Donald formalise the pact with an exchange of Notes.



25. Oct 1966: Closing an emotional chapter with Japan by settling the Japanese “blood debt” issue with Japanese foreign minister E. Shiina. Raja sends him off at the Paya Lebar Airport.



26. Aug 1966: Raja’s diplomacy helps to open up new markets and opportunities for local businesses hit by the Indonesian Confrontation and Singapore’s expulsion from Malaysia. He urges them to modernise and restructure, as he opens the new premises of the Textile Dealers Friendly Association on Arab Street.



27. Feb 1966: British secretary of state for defence Denis Healey (*second from left*, with Goh Keng Swee and Raja at a reception in Sri Temasek) assures Singapore that Britain would retain its bases on the island up to 1979 or 1980. The picture would change in 1967, with the British Defence White Paper announcing a complete pullout by the mid-70s.



28. Dec 1968: Receiving the formal transfer of the Sembawang Naval Dockyard from the British, represented by the British minister of defence (administration) G.W. Reynolds. The plaque bears an inscription of the transfer.



29. Above: 8 Aug 1967: The founding members of ASEAN in Bangkok. From left: Thanat Khoman (Thailand), Narciso Ramos (Philippines), Raja (Singapore), Tun Abdul Razak (Malaysia) and Adam Malik (Indonesia).



30. Left: Raja with his delegation at the inaugural ASEAN meeting. From left (first row): Woon Wah Siang, S.R. Nathan, (second row) Lim Kim Kuay, S. Dhanabalan and Ngiam Tong Dow.



31. Mar 1968: Sharing frank views and food with Indonesian foreign minister Adam Malik on his visit to Singapore. They enjoyed a good rapport based on mutual respect that would see them through the ups and downs of bilateral relations between their countries.

32. May 1973:
PM Lee Kuan Yew, on his first official visit to Indonesia, scatters flowers on the graves of the two Indonesian marines who were executed in Oct 1968. It is a diplomatic gesture to close the episode and turn a new page in bilateral relations.



33. Feb 1976:
Relaxing over dinner at the first ASEAN summit, held in Bali. *From left:* Chatichai Choonhavan (Thailand), Carlos Romulo (Philippines), Adam Malik (Indonesia), Raja, and Ahmad Rithauddeen (Malaysia).



34. Apr 1977:
Discussing regional cooperation with West German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Singapore. Genscher would host the first ASEAN-EEC ministerial conference in Brussels in 1978.





35. *Left:* 1 May 1968: Arriving to great fanfare at his first May Day rally as labour minister, held at the Singapore Conference Hall.

36. *Below:* On stage with NTUC leaders: On Raja's left is NTUC president Peter Vincent, and on his right, NTUC secretary-general Seah Mui Kok. In his speech, Raja calls for sacrifice, discipline and effort by workers to overcome the country's challenges.



37. July 1969: Raja calls on businesses and workers to develop a passion for excellence, at the opening of Singapore Textile Industries, one of Southeast Asia's most modern and fully integrated textile mills.



38. May 1971: Lee chairs a press conference in City Hall on the fate of the *Singapore Herald*. Among those present were Raja, the *Herald's* editor Ambrose Khaw (*far right*) and the Singapore manager of the Chase Manhattan Bank Hendrik Kwant (*far left*).

39. June 1974: Against the backdrop of the global oil crises, Raja strengthens ties with Kuwait foreign minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabar Al-Sabah, who is visiting Singapore. They last met in late January, when Raja toured six oil-rich Middle East countries.



40. Dec 1976: Campaigning in an election rally at Fullerton Square. Raja wins 80 per cent of the vote. In all other general elections from 1965 until his retirement in 1988, he enjoys walkovers.



41. Raja makes headlines as he paves the way for Singapore's engagement with major powers and emerging powers, promoting a rule-based international order and enlarging the country's room for manoeuvre.



42. Welcoming Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi on a state visit to Singapore in May 1968.



43. And Chinese leader Teng Hsiao-ping in November 1978.