

Wave of prosperity Singapore to buy planes, parts from Boeing

United Press International
SINGAPORE — The 2.3 million residents of one of the world's fastest growing republics are riding a wave of prosperity unrivaled anywhere else in Southeast Asia.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has been prodding his country's development for 19 years. His latest act to rivet world attention on the 234-square-mile island came several months ago. It was the announcement that his government-owned Singapore Airlines, less than 6 years in international operation, had contracted to purchase almost \$900 million in aircraft and spare parts over the next 10 years from Boeing Aircraft Co. It was one of the biggest purchase orders Boeing has ever received.

Lee, who rode into power on a pro-socialist platform in 1959, is a pragmatic planner, believing that the fastest way to get rich is to invest in social and free enterprise as the means of getting rich. He is confined to the tip of the Malay peninsula on land devoid of almost any known natural resources, depending mainly on the energy for survival.

While their naturally richer neighbors are still struggling to get out of a Third World economy, Singaporeans boast the highest standard of living in the second only to Japan at more than \$2,600 a year.

Lee inherited the sleepy British colonial administration town when he was a 36-year-old lawyer in the union movement. He now is the fourth busiest port in the world, the third largest refiner of oil, a growing international banking complex with a \$20 billion fund and an industrial and investment climate so friendly and stable that multi-national companies from the United States, Europe and Japan have flocked to it.

To achieve this seeming miracle Lee had first to put his homefront in order. From 1959 to 1963 he concentrated on developing the rule for the former British colony. Then came two years of cooperation with neighboring Malaysia, whose 12 million Malay population created political divisions and put increasing pressure on Lee's ambitious plans and policies. Until the two countries decided to go their own separate ways in 1965.

The Singapore of 1965 was a far cry from the smooth-running metropolis that greets the eye in 1978. The nation, though 76 percent Chinese, had serious pockets of poverty and at the time of independence still fomented bloody riots and general political unrest. The population in general was ill educated and as many as 100 persons used to sleep on the sidewalks.

Communists dominated the labor unions. Streets were littered, the rickshaw and bicycle traffic unregulated, and many city streets were under water during the rainy season. Against this background, Lee and his highly-educated and trained cabinet ruthlessly overhauled Singapore.

The Political Action party fought its way to political dominance until it controls all 69 seats in parliament. Communists were driven out of unions and other walks of life, either jailed or converted to Lee's brand of a tough, honest but progressive government.

The emphasis was on building a nation of more productive and enlightened citizens. History traditions are expendable items that appear to stand in the way of material or social progress. In 1978 the citizens, companies and institutions which fulfill requirements and guidelines laid out for them find the going comparatively easy. Those who buck the tide in any way find themselves paying some of the heaviest penalties ranging from imprisonment, heavy fines, or being relegated to the end of the line when better things in community life are handed out.

message that the English language must be used and understood by every Singaporean.

In the so-called "Two Stream" system of education in the schools, Lee has decreed that subjects can also be taught in mandarin for the Chinese, Malay for the Malays and Tamil for Indians.

Lee refused to accept as one of the official languages the more widely spoken Hokkien or any of the

several Chinese dialects. His reasoning: Singapore is eventually bound to develop closer trade and cultural ties with China despite Singapore's staunch anti-communist stance. When that day comes, his people will need to know.

By literally tailoring Singapore to fit the needs of foreign companies Lee had by the end of 1977 attracted nearly \$4 billion in foreign investments — one third from the United

States and the rest from Japan and the European Economic Community.

There are 140 multi-national companies in Singapore. Richard Love, vice chairman of the American Business Council of Singapore, described the island as "an Asian base of operation for doing business with the world."

Dr. Goh Keng Swee, deputy

prime minister and Lee's chief financial planner, said recently "the valuable lesson we have learned from past years is that if the three major partners for progress — government, labor movement and management — work toward the common goal of increasing output, raising productivity and sharing increased wealth fairly, then everybody in Singapore is better off for it."

Talking to self OK, expert says

United Press International
MELBOURNE, Australia — Talking to yourself — and getting a reply — may be better psychic medicine than transcendental meditation and other do-it-yourself therapies, says a British psychiatrist.

Dr. Malcolm Carruthers, senior lecturer of the London Institute of Psychiatry, told a psychiatric conference in Melbourne last week that talking to oneself — with professional guidance — can help an individual relax and cope with a wide range of stress-related problems.

Carruthers described the treatment — developed over 15 years — as an "autogenic" technique. He said the treatment involved lying down in a "corpse position" and repeating simple phrases directed at one's body, starting with the right arm and ending with the chest.

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