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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

15196

DATE: November 5, 1970
3:00 P.M.
The Secretary's Office

SUBJECT: Situation in Southeast Asia; China; Singapore

PARTICIPANTS: Lee Kuan Yew - Prime Minister of Singapore
Dr. Ernest Steven Monteiro - Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore

The Secretary
Marshall Green - Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Josiah W. Bennett - Country Director for Malaysia/Singapore

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POL 7 SINGAPORE

1. Situation in Southeast Asia - Prime Minister Lee began the conversation, which lasted over an hour, by telling the Secretary that he thought we now had a 55% chance of getting out of Vietnam in such a way as to leave a government there with a chance of survival. The most important thing now, in his view, is to ensure a good election in Vietnam and in this way to consolidate the situation politically.

2. Turning to Malaysia, Lee said the Government there was in the hands of two good men (Razak and Ismail), but that unfortunately both were sickish. If we were very lucky, he thought Ismail might be able to remain active for another five years. In his opinion Ismail is a brave man; and he recalled how Ismail has told the Malays frankly that they must take care not to "push the Chinese and Indians (in Malaysia) to the wall." But Lee had a lesser

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EA/MS-Josiah W. Bennett
(Drafting Office and Officer)
November 9, 1970

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