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Remarks by FM Spokesman Le Hai Binh on Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 crash

MOFA - In response to reporters' questions on Viet Nam's reaction regarding the crash of the Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in the eastern region of Ukraine, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Le Hai Binh on 18 July 2014 said:

"We are deeply saddened when hearing about the crash of the Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 causing massive fatalities.

We would like to extend our deepest condolences and sympathy to the Governments and people of countries whose citizens were killed in the accident as well as families of the victims".

Remarks by the MOFA's Spokeperson regarding the relocation of the Haiyang Shiyou 981 oil rig

MOFA - Regarding China's relocation of the Haiyang Shiyou 981 oil rig, on 16th July 2014, Viet Nam's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Le Hai Binh stated:

"Since 2nd May 2014, the Haiyang Shiyou 981 oil rig and many escort vessels, including military vessels of China have infringed upon the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Viet Nam. The oil rig was installed and operated at the location only 130 nautical miles off the Vietnamese coast. Chinese vessels encircled, intentionally rammed and fired high-power water cannon at the Vietnamese coast guard and fishery resources surveillance ships performing their duties within Viet Nam's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, injuring many Vietnamese fishery surveillance staff on board, causing damages to Vietnamese law enforcement forces, and sinking Vietnamese fishing boats. In response to such actions, Viet Nam has made resolute efforts to defend its sovereignty and sovereign rights by peaceful means.

Once again, Viet Nam reiterates that the area where the Haiyang Shiyou 981 oil rig has been operated since early May is within the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Viet Nam. The operation of the Haiyang Shiyou 981 oil rig and Chinese escort vessels over the past two months is completely illegal and in violation of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Viet Nam looks forward to settling disputes and differences in the East Sea via friendly negotiation on the basis of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. For a peaceful and stable environment in the East Sea, Viet Nam requests that China refrain from the re-deployment of the Haiyang Shiyou 981 oil rig or placement of any other oil rig in Block 143 of Viet Nam or in any other area within the Vietnamese waters prescribed under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We demand China to respect the sovereign rights and jurisdiction of Viet Nam over its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf.

Viet Nam is resolved to defend its sovereignty and sovereign rights in accordance with international law.”

Contents of the International Press Conference on developments in the East Sea June 5th, 2014

At 16h00, Thursday, June 5th, 2014, at the Government Guest House, 12 Ngo Quyen Street, Hanoi, the Ministry of Foreign Ministry held the “International Press Conference on developments in the East Sea”. Attended the press conference representatives of Organs such as the National Border Commission, the Viet Nam Coast Guard, Viet Nam Fisheries Resources Surveillance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Le Hai Binh - Foreign Ministry Spokesman; Mr. Tran Duy Hai - Deputy Chairman of the National Boundary Commission; Mr. Ngo Ngoc Thu - Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Chief of Staff and Mr. Ha Le - Deputy Director of Viet Nam Fisheries Resources Surveillance, are among the chairpersons of the press conference.

The International Press Conference on developments in the East Sea today drew the attention of numerous media agencies of not only national but also international ones as well as representatives of various diplomatic missions in Hanoi.

During the press conference, Mr. Tran Duy Hai - Deputy Chairman of the National Boundary Commission provided some information as follows:

“It has been over a month since China illegally installed its oil rig Haiyang Shiyou 981 within Viet Nam’s continental shelf and exclusive economic zone. Viet Nam has made efforts to communicate with China under different forms and at different levels to demand the latter end all acts that have violated Viet Nam’s sovereign rights and jurisdiction, respect Viet Nam’s sovereignty over the Hoang Sa (Paracels) Islands, and immediately withdraw the oil rig and its escort vessels before both sides can work out measures to stabilize the situation and control maritime issues between them. To date, Viet Nam has made more than 30 communications of all types with China. The Vietnamese maritime law enforcement vessels have also exercised utmost restraint in demanding China immediately withdraw the oil rig and escort vessels from the Vietnamese waters. The international community has expressed appreciation of the manner in which Viet Nam exercised self-restraint and handled the situation, and at the same time, condemned China’s wrongdoings.

Notwithstanding the efforts and goodwill of Viet Nam, China continued its illegal activities and responded negatively by slandering and blaming Viet Nam for the tension. More dangerously, China escalated the tension on the field by relocating the oil rig Haiyang Shiyou 981

to a new location at 15o33'38" N/111o34'62" E, which is 60 nautical miles deep inside Viet Nam's continental shelf and exclusive economic zone. China also increased the number of the escort fleet around the oil rig illegally deployed in the Vietnamese waters. At high time, there were up to 140 Chinese ships, including military ships of various types (missile frigates, fast attack missile crafts, anti-submarine crafts, landing crafts and jet fighters). Chinese ships have surrounded, rammed and fired water cannon at Vietnamese civilian law enforcement ships, which are on duty in the waters within Viet Nam's sovereign rights and jurisdiction. The attacks have injured Vietnamese fishery control officers on board, and damaged several Vietnamese maritime law enforcement vessels. In particular, on 26 May 2014 Chinese ships rammed and sank the Vietnamese fishing boat DNa 90152, which was conducting normal fishing activity in Viet Nam's exclusive economic zone, about 17 nautical miles from the oil rig, thus escalating the tension. More dangerously, Chinese vessels inhumanely attempted to prevent Vietnamese ships from rescuing the fishermen of the sunken boat. On 1 June 2014, Chinese ships again rammed and broke holes in the on-duty Vietnamese Maritime Police ship CSB 2016. Such acts by China have exacerbated the tension in the East Sea, seriously threatening peace, stability, maritime safety and security in the region, causing grave concerns among the international community and anger among the Vietnamese. Viet Nam has made strong protests against China's acts.

On 23 May 2014, the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent the Second Note Verbal to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs demanding the latter withdraw the oil rig Haiyang Shiyou 981 before both sides can negotiate to define the legal status of the location where China installed the oil rig. To date, China has yet to respond the Viet Nam's Note Verbal.

On 4 June 2014, the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Third Note Verbale demanding the latter seriously observe international law, immediately end acts of violating Viet Nam's sovereign rights and jurisdiction within Viet Nam's continental shelf and exclusive economic zone, immediately withdraw the oil rig Haiyang Shiyou 981 and its escort vessels from the Vietnamese waters, and not repeat similar actions in the future. The third Note Verbale from Viet Nam also demanded China settle maritime disputes as well as the issue of China's illegal installation of the oil rig in Viet Nam's continental shelf and exclusive economic zone by negotiations or other peaceful measures in conformity with international law, including the UNCLOS 1982.

Viet Nam hopes that the international community, the media agencies worldwide will continue to raise their fair and impartial voice protesting China's wrongdoings in defence of justice and righteousness".

Then, Mr. Ngo Ngoc Thu, Mr. Ngo Ngoc Thu - Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Chief of Staff of the Viet Nam Coast Guard, presented the current developments in the field from the date that China installed illegally the oil rig of HD-981 inside the vietnamese waters until now with the main contents are as follows:

- At 5 am on 2 May 2014, China installed the oil rig at 15029'08"N - 111012'06"E. This location is 17.3 nautical miles South of Tri Ton (Triton) Island and 80 miles deep inside Viet Nam's continental shelf, or 119 nautical miles from of Ly Son Island.

- At 5 am, 27 May, Vietnamese Coast Guard noticed the oil rig was moving in the East - Northeast direction and stopped at 11:15, at 21.86 nautical miles to the E-NE of the original

location, 143 nautical miles East of Ly Son Island and 25 nautical miles South East of Tri Ton Island.

- On 1 June, the oil rig was relocated slightly and settled at 15033'21"N - 111034'35"E. (approximately 140m to the West - Northwest of the former location).

Until today, the location of the oil rig is generally settled, deep within the continental shelf and the EEZ of Viet Nam.

- Everyday, China employs from 30 to 137 escort vessels, including 6 types of warship such as: missile destroyer (#169, 170), missile frigate (# 523,534,571, 572), fast attack craft (# 752, 753), anti-submarine patrol ship (# 787, 789), minesweeping vessel (# 839, 840, 842, 843), and amphibious landing ship (# 989, 998, 999). Besides, there are from 33 to 42 ships including coast guard, coastal patrol, maritime surveillance and Fisheries Law Enforcement ships, along with 9 to 11 towing and service vessels, 20-22 transport vessels, 1-3 oil tankers and 15-60 fishing boats. At the peak time, China employed a total of 137 vessels of various types in one day to guard the oil rig.

- The number of escort and service fleet remains fairly stable at 70 to 80 ships but the number of fishing boats ranges between 15 and 60. On 27 May, 9 warships were deployed to escort the oil rig as it was moving, including the missile destroyer (#170), missile frigates(#523, 534, 571, 572), anti-submarine patrol ships (#787 and 789) and minesweeping vessels (#840 and 843).

- China constantly uses surveillance planes, helicopters (#8321, 3808, 3586, 9401, B.7112, B.7115), early warning aircrafts (KJ200-9421) and reconnaissance aircraft class TU154 to hover over Vietnamese ships from 100-1000m heights.

- The Chinese escort fleet is divided into 3 rings: the inner ring includes 10-15 ships at 1-1.5 nautical miles from the rig, the middle ring consists of 40-45 ships at 4.5-5 nautical miles from the rig and the outer ring includes 25-35 ships at 10-12 nautical miles from the oil rig. China constantly deployed 9 to 12 ships to closely follow Vietnamese vessels, ready to hinder and collide with Vietnamese vessels at 10-12 nautical away from the oil rig.

- Chinese escort ships are ready to cut off, rear-block, approach the side and collide with Vietnamese ships when the latters approach to voice protests against the violation of the oil rig Haiyang Shiyou 981. Chinese ships also rammed, fired water cannon to damage Vietnamese ships and their equipment. Chinese ships even used high frequency sonar systems and high-lumen light to negatively affect the mental and physical health of the Vietnamese crew. The details are as follows:

+ At 4 pm, 26 May, at 15016'42"N - 111001'30"E (16.5 nautical miles Southwest of the oil rig) the Vietnamese fishing boat # DNa-90152 was rammed and sunk by the Chinese fishing boat #11209. The 10 Vietnamese fishermen on board were flipped into the sea and were luckily rescued by Vietnamese boats.

+ At 4:23 pm, 1 June, at 12 nautical miles West-Southwest of the oil rig, Chinese Coast Guard vessel #46105 fired water cannon and rammed Vietnamese Coast Guard vessel #2016, breaking 4 holes in the right side of the latter, at 40-50 cm above its water line. 7 rail posts and 1 air vent pipe of the Vietnamese ship were also broken.

- There were about 40-45 Chinese fishing boats, divided into two groups, constantly obstructing the fishing operations of Vietnamese fishing boat at their traditional Hoang Sa

fishing ground at 30 to 40 nautical miles South West and West-South West of the oil rig. Since 3 May, Chinese escort vessels have been ramming and firing water cannon at Vietnamese vessels, causing injuries to 12 Vietnamese fishery control officers and damage to 24 Vietnamese law enforcement vessels (5 Coast Guard vessels and 19 Fishery Control vessels).

+ The five damaged Vietnamese Coast Guard vessels (# 4032, 4033, 2012, 2013, 2016).

- They promptly showed up at the site to perform law enforcement duties and prevent the violation of Vietnamese waters by China's oil rig and escort fleet. The main measures include approaching the Chinese oil-rig and escort vessels to broadcast reassertions of Vietnamese sovereignty and demand them leave the Vietnamese waters, filming and taking pictures to document the activities of China's oil rig and escort vessels as evidence. Vietnamese Coast Guard vessels have repeatedly approached China's oil rig to demand them leave Viet Nam's waters. The message was in Vietnamese, Chinese and English.

- After a month, despite the disruptive and destructive activities of Chinese vessels, including ramming and firing water cannon, the Vietnamese Coast Guard and Fishery Control forces continued with the tactic of avoiding collision with Chinese vessels. Vietnamese civilian law enforcement vessels did not ram or fire water cannon at Chinese escort and fishing vessels, but merely used speakers to demand China withdraw its oil-rig and escort ships out of the Vietnamese waters. The Vietnamese law enforcement forces continued to resolutely defend national sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction of Viet Nam in its EEZ and continental shelf.

About Viet Nam Fisheries Resources Surveillance, according to the information provided by Mr. Ha Le - Deputy Director of Viet Nam Fisheries Resources Surveillance, as now is the peak of fishing season – the major harvest of the year for our fishermen. Therefore, fishermen from many localities, particularly those in the central region of Viet Nam, have been persistently stationed at sea to fish on their traditional grounds.

During their normal operation within the traditional fishing ground in Viet Nam's Hoang Sa archipelago, Vietnamese fishing boats and fishermen have been obstructed by Chinese law enforcement forces and fishing vessels and suffered from property damage and violence. The details are as follows:

- On 7th May 2014: Fishing boat QNg-96416-TS, while fishing in the sea area approximately 15 nautical miles South from Linh Con (Lincoln) island (of the Hoang Sa archipelago) and 70 nautical miles East of the Chinese oil rig, was chased, fired flares and thrown hammers and bolts at by Chinese warship 1241. A Chinese fishery administration vessel also chased and rammed straight into the rear of fishing boat QNg-96416-TS.

Fishing boat QNg-96147-TS of Mr. Duong Van Giau (resident of An Hai commune, Ly Son island district) operating in the Hoang Sa sea area was destroyed by Chinese fishery administration. Some of its properties were seized by the latter before being chased out of the area.

Fishing boat QNg-96354-TS of fisherman Nguyen Chi (resident of An Hai commune, Ly Son island district), while operating in the Hoang Sa area, had its property damaged by Chinese ship.

- On 9th May 2014: Fishing boat QNg-96110-TS of fisherman Huynh Cong Nhiem, while fishing in the Hoang Sa sea area, had its properties, communicating headset and fishing instruments seized by Chinese vessels.

- On 12th May 2014: Fishing boat QTr-91119-TS of Mr. Bui Xuan Tan and fishing boat QTr-96868-TS of Mr. Vo Van Huu from Quang Tri province, while operating in the Hoang Sa archipelago area, were chased after by Chinese vessels; their fishing nets were damaged, fishing instruments and catch on-deck were seized.

- On 14th May 2014, fishing boat QNa-91599-TS was rammed by a Chinese ship; the cabin behind the wheel was broken.

- On May 16th 2014: Fishing boat QNg-90205-TS operating in Viet Nam's Hoang Sa sea area was attacked by Chinese Fishery Administration ship 306. Two fishermen, namely Nguyen Huyen Le Anh (aged 30) and Nguyen Tan Hai (aged 24), suffered from serious injuries after being beaten up by staff on Chinese Fishery Administration ships. Chinese fishery administration officers also destroyed the Vietnamese fishermen's properties, stole their fishing equipments and catch.

Fishing boat DNa-90235-TS was rammed behind the wheel by Chinese fishing vessel 71075. The former's bridge hood collapsed; its rear deck was cracked.

Fishing boat DNa-90406-TS was hit by Chinese fishing boat 71075; its staircase collapsed, cabin cracked and six-bulb lighting set was damaged.

- On 17th May 2014: fishing boat QNg-96011-TS operating in the Hoang Sa sea area (31 nautical miles from Triton island) was attacked by Chinese law enforcement ship 21102. On-deck tools, including boat baskets, bridge glass-door, and aero-tube, were damaged; several equipment (fish-finder, I-com and positioning device) and 400kg of catch were seized.

- On 26th May 2014: Fishing boat DNa-90152-TS with 10 fishermen on board while operating at 17 nautical miles from the oil rig Haiyang Shiyu 981 was rammed and sunk by Chinese vessel 11209. The 10 Vietnamese fishermen were rescued by Vietnamese fishing boat and fishing community. Currently fishing boat DNa-90152-TS has been pulled back onto land for repair./.

Statement by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Le Hai Binh on Situation in Thailand

(MOFA - 26th May) - On 24 May 2014, responding to reporters' question on Viet Nam's reaction to the on-going developments in Thailand, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Le Hai Binh stated:

"As a neighbor in the region and also an ASEAN member, Viet Nam closely follows on-going developments in Thailand. Viet Nam hopes that Thailand will soon stabilize the situation in order to build and develop the country, for peace, stability and cooperation in the region."

On the same day, the Consulate Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a notice to advise Vietnamese citizens not to travel to Thailand until the stability recovered. It also advised the Vietnamese community in Thailand to abide by local regulations and to timely contact Viet Nam's representative offices in Thailand if assistance is needed.

Joint Statement between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Malaysia on the official visit to Viet Nam by Malaysian Prime Minister, His Excellency Najib Tun Abdul Razak

1. At the invitation of His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of Viet Nam, His Excellency Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia and Madam Rosmah Mansor paid an official visit to Viet Nam from 3 to 5 April 2014. This is the first visit to Viet Nam by His Excellency Najib Tun Abdul Razak in his capacity as the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

2. During the visit in Ha Noi, Prime Minister Najib Tun Abdul Razak attended the official welcome ceremony, held a bilateral meeting and attended the reception hosted by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung; paid courtesy calls on His Excellency Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and His Excellency Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; visited a Malaysia investment project. Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak also met with the Malaysian community in Hanoi and had a meeting with the Vietnamese and Malaysian business community.

3. During the official talks, Leaders of the two countries informed each other of the socio-economic development in each respective country, discussed ways to further elevate relations for a comprehensive partnership between the two countries, regional and international issues of common interest. They highlighted the significance of this visit and noted with satisfaction the sound development of the comprehensive partnership between the two countries in all areas over the last 40 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations. They reaffirmed the commitment to intensify the comprehensive partnership in all areas in the coming years toward the establishment of a strategic partnership, in the interest of the two peoples, for peace, cooperation and development in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

4. Prime Minister Najib Tun Abdul Razak took this opportunity to express his heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Viet Nam's assistance during the early days of SAR operation in locating the missing aircraft MH370 of Malaysia Airlines. Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak also highly valued Viet Nam's immediate action by deploying of its assets and sharing relevant information pertaining to the missing aircraft. Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak emphasized that Malaysia's prime intention was to find the missing aircraft and would never abandon its efforts until the aircraft had been found. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung expressed his deep sympathies and condolences to Prime Minister Najib Tun Abdul Razak, the people of Malaysia and the bereaved families of the victims of flight MH370.

5. Prime Minister Najib Tun Abdul Razak congratulated the Vietnamese people on the important achievements recorded in the course of reform and national development, expressed his confidence that Viet Nam would successfully implement its 2011 – 2020 Socio-economic Development Strategy. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung highly valued the achievements attained by the people of Malaysia in the cause of nation-building and development, expressed conviction that under the leadership of Prime Minister Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Malaysia would rapidly achieve the goals set forth in "Vision 2020".

6. Regarding Viet Nam-Malaysia relations, the two sides agreed to continue to increase regular exchanges of high-level visits and contacts at all levels, promote cooperation in all areas and people-to-people exchanges, soon organize the fifth Session of the Joint Commis-

sion on Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation with a view to further broadening and deepening bilateral cooperation in these areas.

7. Both sides agreed to intensify defense and security cooperation, including the proposal to establish a Joint Committee on bilateral defence relations, which is in line with the Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Defence Cooperation signed in August 2008, as well as the establishment of 'hotline' between the two navies. Both sides also agreed to expedite the signing of the MOU on Prevention and Combat of Transnational Crimes.

8. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the strong increase of the bilateral trade turnover, agreed to increase trade volume to USD11 billion before 2015, and considered the possibility of signing an MOU between the two Governments on rice trade to facilitate stable and long-term cooperation in this field. Both sides reaffirmed commitments in maintaining favorable conditions for investors of both sides to explore business and investment opportunities in each country.

9. The two Leaders witnessed the signing of the MOU on Agricultural Cooperation between Viet Nam and Malaysia and applauded the MOU's significance in accelerating agriculture cooperation between the two countries.

10. The two Leaders agreed on the strengthening of bilateral cooperation on labour matters and tasked relevant agencies to review the MOU on The Recruitment of Vietnamese Workers. The two Leaders also encouraged the enhancement and expansion of, among others, cooperation in other potential areas including energy, transportation, education, tourism, legislation, justice, etc.

11. With regard to regional and international issues, the Leaders of the two countries agreed to maintain close cooperation and coordination in regional and international forums, particularly ASEAN and the United Nations, and to work together with other ASEAN member countries to build a resilient and united ASEAN Community by 2015. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung reaffirmed Viet Nam's commitment to do its utmost to coordinate with and support Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2015.

12. The two Leaders exchanged views on the recent developments in the South China Sea and reaffirmed the importance of upholding ASEAN's unity and centrality in the maintenance of peace and stability, maritime security, freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea. The two Leaders called on all parties concerned to resolve their disputes through peaceful means in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and to avoid resorting to force or the threat of the use of force and to undertake self-restraint in the conduct of activities. The Leaders urged for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), the ASEAN 6-point Principles on the South China Sea and expedited efforts towards the establishment of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

13. Regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the two sides agreed to intensify cooperation towards the early conclusion of TPP negotiations, while ensuring flexibility, appropriate transition, technical support and capacity-building for developing countries.

14. Prime Minister Najib Tun Abdul Razak and Madam expressed deep gratitude to Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and Madam, the Government and people of Viet Nam for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the Malaysian delegation. Prime Min-

ister Najib Tun Razak invited Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and Madam to pay an official visit to Malaysia at a convenient time. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung accepted the invitation with pleasure. The time for the visit will be arranged through diplomatic channels.

Ha Noi, 4 April 2014

Malaysian Prime Minister starts Viet Nam visit

(Vietnamplus - 04/04/2014) - Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak and his spouse arrived in Ha Noi on April 3 at the start of an official visit to Viet Nam that will last until April 5.



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak (Photo: VNA)

The visit is being made at an invitation by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, and aims to strengthen the two countries' bilateral friendship and comprehensive cooperation.

The Malaysian leader is accompanied by foreign minister Datuk Anifah Aman, minister of industry and international trade YB Dato' Sri MUSA Mohamed, and minister of agriculture YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, among others.

Malaysia is Viet Nam's ninth largest trade partner with two-way trade hitting 9.1 billion USD in 2013.

At the end of last year, it ranked eighth among countries and territories investing in Viet Nam with more than 400 projects worth over 10 billion USD while Viet Nam had 10 projects with more than 740 million USD in Malaysia.

Viet Nam and Malaysia have signed a number of agreements on aviation, maritime cooperation, science and technology, and telecommunications.

Remarks by FM Spokesman Le Hai Binh on 8 March 2014 regarding the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370

In response to reporters' questions on Viet Nam's reaction regarding the missing of the Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 on its route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Le Hai Binh on 8 March 2014 said:

"Viet Nam follows the situation with utmost attention. We sympathize with the passengers' families.

Upon receiving the information that the Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 had lost contact with the air traffic control, Vietnamese competent agencies have actively coordinated with parties concerned to investigate and deploy search and rescue measures"./.

His Majesty Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Badlishah, the Yang di-Pertuan XIV of Malaysia, began his three-day State Visit to Singapore today.

His Majesty and Her Majesty Tuanku Sultanah Hajah Haminah binti Haji Hamidun, the Raja Permaisuri Agong, received a ceremonial welcome at the Istana and paid a courtesy call on President Tony Tan and Mrs Mary Tan.

President and His Majesty expressed their satisfaction with the friendly state of bilateral relations. Both leaders noted the wide-ranging cooperation between both countries and the good progress being made in major initiatives to enhance connectivity, trade and investment, and people-to-people ties between both countries. In the evening, President and Mrs Tan will host a State Banquet at the Istana in honour of Their Majesties.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE
19 MAY 2014

May 19, 2014

MFA Press Statement: State Visit of His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong XIV of Malaysia, 19 to 21 May 2014

His Majesty Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Badlishah, the Yang di-Pertuan XIV of Malaysia, began his three-day State Visit to Singapore today.

His Majesty and Her Majesty Tuanku Sultanah Hajah Haminah binti Haji Hamidun, the Raja Permaisuri Agong, received a ceremonial welcome at the Istana and paid a courtesy call on President Tony Tan and Mrs Mary Tan.

President and His Majesty expressed their satisfaction with the friendly state of bilateral relations. Both leaders noted the wide-ranging cooperation between both countries and the good progress being made in major initiatives to enhance connectivity, trade and investment, and people-to-people ties between both countries. In the evening, President and Mrs Tan will host a State Banquet at the Istana in honour of Their Majesties.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SINGAPORE

19 MAY 2014

May 17, 2014

MFA Press Statement: State Visit of His Majesty The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong XIV of Malaysia, 19 to 21 May 2014

His Majesty Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Badlishah, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong XIV of Malaysia, will make a State Visit to Singapore from 19 to 21 May 2014.

His Majesty and Her Majesty Tuanku Sultanah Hajah Haminah binti Haji Hamidun, the Raja Permaisuri Agong XIV of Malaysia will receive a ceremonial welcome at the Istana. Their Majesties will pay a courtesy call on President Tony Tan and Mrs Mary Tan, who will host them to a State Banquet. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Mrs Lee will also call on Their Majesties.

During the State Visit, His Majesty will visit Gardens by the Bay, Reflections at Bukit Chandu, and the Night Safari. Their Majesties will also visit the National Orchid Garden at the Singapore Botanic Gardens, where an orchid will be named in Their Majesties' honour.

The State Visit by Their Majesties reciprocates President Tan and Mrs Tan's State Visit to Malaysia in September 2013, and underscores the deep and longstanding ties between Singapore and Malaysia.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE
17 MAY 2014

May 11, 2014

MFA Press Statement: 24th ASEAN Summit, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 10-11 May 2014

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong attended the 24th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar from 10 to 11 May 2014. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of Myanmar, and was attended by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, the caretaker Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and the ASEAN Secretary-General.

The ASEAN Leaders reviewed the progress made in establishing an ASEAN Community by 2015 since they last met in October 2013 and called for acceleration of efforts to implement the Blueprints of the three Community Pillars. They took note of the report of the High-level Task Force on the Strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs (HLTF) and welcomed progress in developing ASEAN's Post-2015 Vision. The Leaders exchanged views on regional and international developments, and discussed ways to sustain ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture. The Leaders also met with the representatives of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and Youth. The Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the Realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015 was adopted by the Leaders at the end of the Summit.

The Leaders congratulated Myanmar on its inaugural Chairmanship under the leadership of President Thein Sein and aptly themed "Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community". They pledged their firm support for Myanmar's Chairmanship for the rest of 2014.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SINGAPORE

11 MAY 2014

May 07, 2014

MFA Spokesman's comments in response to media queries on the South China Sea on 7 May 2014

In response to media queries on reports of several incidents in the South China Sea, in particular collisions between Vietnamese and Chinese vessels in the vicinity of the Paracel Islands, the MFA Spokesman said:

"Singapore is concerned about recent developments in the South China Sea. We call on all parties to exercise self-restraint and avoid actions that could escalate tensions in the South China Sea. We urge all parties to fully abide by the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and manage disputes peacefully in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). We also continue to urge ASEAN and China to work towards an early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea."

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SINGAPORE

7 MAY 2014

April 04, 2014

MFA Press Statement: State Visit of President Tony Tan Keng Yam to the Republic of the Philippines (2 to 5 April 2014)

President Tony Tan Keng Yam, who is in the Philippines on a State Visit, attended a Singapore Red Cross (SRC) event to hand over Singapore's contributions to post-Typhoon Haiyan relief efforts this morning. President Tan witnessed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding between the SRC and its movement partners, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the Philippine Red Cross. He also presented cheques amounting to S\$7 million to SRC's partners for rehabilitation projects in the affected areas.

In the afternoon, President Tan was the Guest-of-Honour at the 11th Philippines-Singapore Business Council (PSBC)'s Roundtable Lunch, which was attended by Philippine Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo, Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez Jr. and business leaders from the Philippines and Singapore. President Tan highlighted the positive trajectory of the Philippine economy, which presented opportunities to deepen bilateral economic ties, and encouraged the PSBC to further facilitate cooperation between enterprises on both sides.

President Tan will depart for Samar Province tomorrow, where he will hand over medical equipment to Basey District Hospital, as part of a rehabilitation project between SRC and ICRC.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE

April 01, 2014

MFA Press Statement: State Visit of President Tony Tan Keng Yam to the Republic of the Philippines, 2 to 5 April 2014

President Tony Tan Keng Yam will make a State Visit to the Philippines from 2 to 5 April 2014 at the invitation of Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III. He will visit Manila and Basey Municipality in Samar Province.

President Tan will receive a ceremonial welcome in Manila. He will call on and be hosted to a State Banquet by President Aquino. President Tan will also participate in a lunch hosted by the Philippines-Singapore Business Council (PSBC), and meet with various Philippine personalities. President Tan will meet with overseas Singaporeans based in the Philippines over a dinner reception.

While in Manila, President Tan will attend a Singapore Red Cross (SRC) event to mark Singapore's contributions to post-Typhoon Haiyan relief efforts. He will witness the signing of Memoranda of Understanding between SRC and its movement partners, including the Philippine Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. In Samar, President will hand over medical equipment to the Basey District Hospital, a joint rehabilitation project between SRC and ICRC.

President will be accompanied by Mrs Mary Tan; Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs Grace Fu; Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Manpower Hawazi Daipi; Members of Parliament Lam Pin Min and Vikram Nair; and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Enterprise Singapore, and Ministry of Manpower.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE

1 APRIL

March 08, 2014

MFA Spokesman's Comments in response to media queries on Malaysia Airlines flight MH 370 that went missing on 8 March 2014

In response to media queries on Malaysia Airlines flight MH 370 that went missing on 8 March 2014, the MFA Spokesman said:

"MFA is closely monitoring the status of the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH 370 on 8 March 2014. MFA has been in touch with Malaysia Airlines, and confirmed that there were no Singaporeans onboard the flight. Singaporeans who require consular assistance should contact the MFA Duty Office (24-hours) or the Singapore High Commission in Kuala Lumpur at:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Duty Office
Tel: 6379 8800, 6379 8855 (24 hours)
Fax: 6476-7302
Email: mfa_duty_officer@mfa.gov.sg

Singapore High Commission in Kuala Lumpur
Level 15, West Wing
The Icon, No. 1, Jalan 1/68F
Jalan Tun Razak
50400 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Tel: +6(03) 2161 - 6277
Fax: +6(03) 2161 - 6343
Email: singhc_kul@sgmfa.gov.sg

Singapore's thoughts and prayers are with the passengers and crew of the missing aircraft, and their families. The Singapore Rescue Coordination Centre was activated and an aircraft was sent to help in the search and locate efforts.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Law K Shanmugam have respectively called Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Najib Razak and Foreign Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Anifah Hj. Aman to express their sympathies over the missing aircraft, and offer any further assistance that Singapore can render to Malaysia. Minister Shanmugam has also conveyed to PRC Foreign Minister Wang Yi his concern for the many Chinese passengers onboard the missing aircraft."

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE
8 MARCH 2014

February 21, 2014

Official Visit by Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong, 20 to 21 February 2014

Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong called on President Tony Tan Keng Yam and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the Istana this morning, and was hosted to lunch by Prime Minister Lee.

During the call on President Tan, President Tan and Prime Minister Thongsing reaffirmed the warm bilateral ties as both countries celebrate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year. Noting the growing people-to-people linkages between our countries, President Tan and Prime Minister Thongsing also encouraged the deepening of bilateral economic relations. The signing of the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income (DTA) would facilitate greater trade and business linkages. President Tan and Prime Minister Thongsing also acknowledged that it was important for both countries to work closely together towards the goal of establishing an ASEAN Community by 2015.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Lee, Prime Minister Thongsing expressed appreciation for Singapore's assistance in building up Lao PDR's human resource capacity. Prime Minister Lee said that the Singapore Cooperation Programme has played a key role in facilitating greater bilateral exchanges, and Singapore remained committed to helping Lao PDR in its human resource development. Both leaders also noted the increasing pace of ASEAN integration, and reaffirmed their commitment to work together to ensure that ASEAN remained at the centre of regional economic cooperation.

Following their meeting, both Prime Ministers witnessed the signing of the DTA, and a Memorandum of Understanding on Collaboration in the Field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training between the Institute of Technical Education Education Services and the Lao Youth Union. Later that afternoon, Prime Minister Thongsing visited the National Orchid Garden, where an orchid hybrid "Dendrobium Thongsing Thammavong" was named in his honour. Prime Minister Thongsing departs Singapore this evening.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE
21 FEBRUARY 2014

February 19, 2014

Official Visit by Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong, 20 – 21 February 2014

His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, will make an Official Visit to Singapore from 20 to 21 February 2014 at the invitation of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Prime Minister Thongsing's visit underscores the excellent ties between Singapore and Lao PDR, and marks the 40th anniversary of bilateral relations.

An official Welcome Ceremony will be held in honour of Prime Minister Thongsing at the Istana on 21 February 2014. Prime Minister Thongsing will call on President Tony Tan Keng Yam, and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who will also host an Official Lunch in his honour.

While in Singapore, Prime Minister Thongsing will also visit and receive briefings by the Urban Redevelopment Authority, ITE College Central and Sentosa Development Corporation. Prime Minister Thongsing will also officiate at the opening ceremony of the exhibition "Hand-

made in Asia – Weaving the Cosmic Serpent in Laos” on Lao woven textiles at the Asian Civilisations Museum on 20 February 2014.

Prime Minister Thongsing will be accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Thongloun Sisoulith, Minister and Head of Government Office Dr Sinlavong Khoutphaythoune, Minister of Planning and Investment Somdy Douangdy, Minister of Finance Phouphet Khamphounvong, Secretary General of Lao Youth Union Dr Vilayvong Bouddakham, senior government officials and a business delegation. The business delegation will attend a Business Seminar and Networking Session hosted by the Singapore Business Federation on 20 February 2014.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE
19 FEBRUARY 2014

January 27, 2014

Joint Statement of 2nd United States-Singapore Strategic Partnership Dialogue

Following is the text of a joint statement by Singapore and the United States issued on 27 January 2014 in Singapore.

The Permanent Secretary of Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Chee Wee Kiong and United States Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Mr Daniel Russel met in Singapore on 27 January 2014 to co-chair the second United States - Singapore Strategic Partnership Dialogue. The dialogue served to enhance bilateral relations and the strategic partnership between the United States and Singapore. The co-chairs, in the spirit of equal partnership, mutual respect and desire to promote close cooperation, reviewed the robust array of initiatives undertaken between the two countries and sought new areas to create and expand cooperation in bilateral, regional and global matters of joint interest.

The co-chairs reviewed bilateral areas of engagement including economic and trade, defence and the US-Singapore Third Country Training Programme. They also discussed new areas of cooperation such as energy, climate change and sustainable development. The co-chairs discussed recent developments in Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia and regional institutions such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Both sides committed to actively seek ways to further utilise such institutions to address shared challenges confronting the region including water management and the environment. They affirmed the importance of regional peace and stability, maritime and aviation security, freedom and safety of navigation and overflight, as well as unimpeded, lawful commerce. They also emphasised the importance for all countries in the region to resolve their disputes by peaceful means in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and urged all parties to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities. They continued to encourage ASEAN Member States and China to expeditiously work towards early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) and urged all parties to pursue their claims peacefully and in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS. The co-chairs also reviewed regional initiatives including the Trans-Pacific Partnership where

they renewed their commitment to achieving a mutually-beneficial, high-standard agreement that will contribute to establishing an open and inclusive trade and investment framework in the Asia-Pacific. The co-chairs also had further dialogue on areas of global cooperation.

Both sides noted the robust level of high-level visits between the two countries. These include the official visit of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to the United States in April 2013, the official visit of Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law K Shanmugam to the United States in March 2013, the official visit of Minister for Defence Ng Eng Hen to the United States in December 2013 and the official visits to Singapore of United States Vice President Joseph Biden Jr in July 2013, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel in June 2013, Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker in October 2013, Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew in November 2013 and United States Trade Representative Michael Froman in December 2013.

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January 18, 2014

MFA Press Statement: Visit to Singapore by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of the Kingdom of Thailand, 18 to 19 January 2014

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of the Kingdom of Thailand is visiting Singapore from 18 to 19 January 2014 to attend the Opening Ceremony of the Global Young Scientists Summit (GYSS).

While in Singapore, Her Royal Highness will be hosted to lunch on 19 January 2014 by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Mrs Lee. Her Royal Highness will also meet Minister for Health and National Research Foundation Board Member Gan Kim Yong, who will be the Guest-of-Honour at the GYSS Opening Ceremony.

In addition, Her Royal Highness will visit the National Research Foundation, and tour the TUM CREATE Laboratory, a joint electromobility research project between Germany's Technische Universität München (TUM) and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). She will also visit Yale-NUS College.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE
18 JANUARY 2014

January 17, 2014

MFA Press Statement: ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting Retreat, 17 January 2014

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law K Shanmugam attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in the ancient city of Bagan, Myanmar today. It was a historic setting for a historic occasion. The Retreat is the first ASEAN Ministerial Meeting hosted by Myanmar under its inaugural ASEAN Chairmanship.

At the Retreat, the Foreign Ministers took stock of ASEAN's Community-building and regional integration efforts. Noting that two years remained to the establishment of an ASEAN Community on 31 December 2015, the Ministers affirmed the need to energize efforts to fulfil the Blueprint goals for the three Community pillars. They agreed to enhance cooperation on important issues affecting the region and explored ways for ASEAN to support the Philippines' reconstruction efforts in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. With the dry season approaching, Ministers were urged to take steps to tackle the issue of transboundary haze pollution to protect the health and welfare of their peoples.

The Foreign Ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues, including recent developments in the East China Sea and South China Sea, as well as on the Korean Peninsula. They reaffirmed ASEAN's Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea and the importance of maintaining peace and stability, maritime security, freedom of navigation and overflight. They urged self-restraint in the conduct of activities. They also reaffirmed the importance of maintaining ASEAN's unity and centrality in promoting regional peace and stability in today's complex geopolitical environment.

In this connection, the Foreign Ministers expressed support for Myanmar's ASEAN Chairmanship and its theme "Moving Forward in Unity towards a Peaceful and Prosperous Community".

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE
17 JANUARY 2014

January 16, 2014

MFA Press Statement: ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting Retreat, 17 January 2014

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law K Shanmugam will attend the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting Retreat in Bagan, Myanmar on 17 January 2014. At the Retreat,

the Foreign Ministers will take stock of ASEAN's Community-building efforts and follow up on the outcomes of the 23rd ASEAN and Related Summits, which were held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, in October 2013. The Foreign Ministers will also exchange views on regional and international issues.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SINGAPORE

16 JANUARY 2014

December 14, 2013

MFA Press Statement: ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo, Japan on 14 December 2013

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong attended the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo, Japan today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan relations. The meeting was co-chaired by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and was attended by the Leaders of ASEAN Member States and Japan, as well as the ASEAN Secretary-General.

The Leaders reviewed existing cooperation under the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action 2011-2015 to Implement the Joint Declaration for Enhancing ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership for Prospering Together and discussed ways to strengthen the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership. In line with the objective of the ASEAN-Japan 10 Year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap (2012 – 2022) to double the flow of goods, services and investments by 2022, the Leaders announced the substantial conclusion of the negotiations on the Services and Investment Chapters of the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement.

The Leaders expressed appreciation for Prime Minister Abe's Five New Principles for Japanese Diplomacy, which outlined Japan's renewed engagement with ASEAN, including the promotion of people-to-people exchanges. In this connection, the Leaders agreed to explore the possibility of concluding an ASEAN-Japan Air Services Agreement. The Leaders also emphasised the importance of working towards a disaster resilient ASEAN Community and welcomed Japan's proposal to strengthen ASEAN-Japan disaster management cooperation.

The Leaders adopted the "Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation: Shared Vision, Shared Identity, Shared Future" and its accompanying Implementation Plan, and issued the "Joint Statement of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit: Hand in hand, facing regional and global challenges". The documents are enclosed. The Leaders affirmed

the strong and close ties forged over the past 40 years and looked forward to the next phase of ASEAN-Japan relations.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE
14 DECEMBER 2013

Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation: Shared Vision, Shared Identity, Shared Future

Implementation Plan of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation: Shared Vision, Shared Identity, Shared Future

Joint Statement of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit: Hand in hand, facing regional and global challenges

December 10, 2013

Joint Press Statement on Technical Discussions on Maritime Boundaries between the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Singapore in the Eastern Part of the Strait of Singapore

NINTH ROUND
9-10 DECEMBER 2013
SINGAPORE

1. The delegations of the Governments of the Republic of Singapore and the Republic of Indonesia held the Ninth Round of Technical Discussions on Maritime Boundaries in the Eastern Part of the Strait of Singapore in Singapore on 9-10 December 2013, as a follow-up to the Eighth Round of Technical Discussions, which were held in Manado, Indonesia on 19-20 September 2013.
2. The Singapore delegation was led by Mr. Pang Khang Chau, Director-General, International Affairs Division, Attorney-General's Chambers. The Indonesian delegation was led by Mr. Octavino Alimudin, Director for Political, Security, and Territorial Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
3. At the Ninth Round of Technical Discussions, the delegations continued their discussions on the draft Treaty relating to the Delimitation of the Territorial Seas of the Two Countries in the Eastern Part of the Strait of Singapore.
4. Both Heads of Delegation acknowledged that the progress reached at the Discussions would contribute to strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
10 DECEMBER 2013

September 19, 2013

MFA Press Statement : State Visit of President Tony Tan Keng Yam to Malaysia , 18 to 20 September 2013

President Tony Tan Keng Yam and Mrs Mary Tan visited the University of Malaya (UM) on the second day of President's State Visit to Malaysia. This visit had special significance as UM and National University of Singapore (NUS), of which President is Chancellor, share historical roots and longstanding ties. UM Vice-Chancellor Tan Sri Dr Gauth Jasmon briefed President on UM's developmental plans. Tan Sri Dr Gauth Jasmon also outlined to President the existing collaboration between UM and its international partners, including research centres in NUS and Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

President and Mrs Tan were also hosted to a visit to the PERMATA Negara Nursery in Putrajaya by Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor, Patron of PERMATA Negara. The PERMATA

Negara Nurseries were established to provide children from low-income families with quality early childhood care and education. President and Mrs Tan also visited the Islamic Arts Museum of Malaysia, the largest museum of Islamic art in Southeast Asia.

In the evening, Singapore's High Commissioner Ong Keng Yong hosted a reception for President to meet with the Singapore community living in Kuala Lumpur. During the reception, President noted that the Singaporean community was yet another example of the close people-to-people links that form the foundation of bilateral relations between Singapore and Malaysia.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE
19 SEPTEMBER 2013

August 01, 2013

MFA Press Statement: Exchange of congratulatory messages to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Singapore and Vietnam

Singapore and Vietnam established diplomatic relations on 1 August 1973. To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the event, President Tony Tan Keng Yam, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law K Shanmugam exchanged congratulatory messages with Vietnam's President Truong Tan Sang, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Pham Binh Minh. The texts of the letters are appended below.

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SINGAPORE
1 AUGUST 2013

Letter from President Tony Tan to President Truong Tan Sang

1 August 2013

His Excellency Truong Tan Sang
President
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Dear President Sang,

I would like to extend my warmest wishes to Your Excellency and the people of Vietnam on this 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Singapore and Vietnam.

Looking back, our bilateral relations have taken great leaps forward in the past 40 years. Both countries share a close friendship. We cooperate closely to advance our common interests within ASEAN and at other regional and international fora. Bilateral economic cooperation is strong with Singapore being one of Vietnam's largest investors. People-to-people links between our countries are robust and expanding. With the increase in connectivity, more and more Singaporeans are visiting Vietnam. In turn, we welcome the increasing number of Vietnamese who visit Singapore to study, work, and play.

This year, to consolidate the achievements of the past 40 years and set the direction for our future cooperation, we will elevate bilateral relations to that of a Strategic Partnership. It is my hope that both sides can use the Strategic Partnership to take our relations to greater heights.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

TONY TAN KENG YAM

Letter from Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung

1 August 2013

Dear Prime Minister Dung,

On behalf of the Government and people of Singapore, I convey my best wishes to Your Excellency and the Government of Vietnam on the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Singapore and Vietnam.

Singapore and Vietnam enjoy close and substantive relations. The four successful Vietnam-Singapore Industrial Parks (VSIPs) reflect our excellent economic ties. I look forward to opening the fifth VSIP during my visit to Vietnam this September. Our people-to-people ties are growing stronger, thanks to more frequent flights and exchanges between our peoples and businessmen. We also cooperate closely at regional and international fora, including ASEAN.

I am glad that we are elevating our bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership. I am confident that this will inject fresh impetus to our partnership, and pave the way for even stronger relations in the future.

I wish you good health and success, and look forward to seeing you again in September.

Yours sincerely

LEE HSIEN LOONG

His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung

Prime Minister

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Letter from Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law K Shanmugam to Minister of Foreign Affairs Pham Binh Minh

1 August 2013

His Excellency Pham Binh Minh
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Dear Excellency

I would like to convey my warmest wishes to you on this happy occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries.

Singapore and Vietnam enjoy excellent relations because of our mutual respect and close cooperation. Our leaders enjoy close personal ties with frequent high-level exchanges over the years. Singapore and Vietnam work closely at various regional and international fora including ASEAN. We share many common interests, including the importance of strengthening ASEAN to maintain regional peace and stability. Economic cooperation continues to grow, buttressed by the Singapore-Vietnam Connectivity Framework Agreement. In a wide range of areas such as defence, education, and arts and culture, both sides are working more closely than ever.

With the elevation of bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership this September, relations between our countries are poised to move to a higher level. I look forward to working with you to strengthen our relations.

Yours sincerely,

K SHANMUGAM