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28	Mindef Library	GVT 207
29	Director, Community Relations Dept, Ministry of Community Development (Kindly make copies and distribute to all the secretariats)	GVT 230
30	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence	GVT 560
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32	Rear Admiral (NS) Teo Chee Hean, Minister of State for Finance and Defence	GVT 565
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07-1/96/03/22

**SPEECH BY RADM (NS) TEO CHEE HEAN,
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
SECOND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
AND CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE,
AT THE CYBERWAY INTERNET SERVICE LAUNCH
AT TOWER BALLROOM, SHANGRI-LA HOTEL
ON FRIDAY, 22 MARCH 1996 AT 11.30 AM**

**WIDER ACCESS AND BETTER SERVICE
FOR AN INTER-CONNECTED FUTURE**

It is a great pleasure to join you this morning for the launch of Singapore's third and newest Internet access service provider. Internet services started in Singapore only 4 years ago in January 1992 with Technet, which was largely to provide for the needs of academia and the scientific and research community.

2 We did not anticipate then that the Internet would experience such explosive growth. In the realm of Internet public access, we in Singapore were somewhat behind the power curve, both in terms of ease

of access and pricing. The first public access provider started services not even two years ago, in mid-1994. We are now catching up rapidly.

3 There are now about 100,000 Internet account holders in Singapore. The growth rate, especially in this last year, has been phenomenal, presenting the two existing service providers with a great challenge to keep up. The knowledge that a third provider would soon enter the scene also spurred them on to improve service levels and pricing.

4 Now that the third provider, CyberWay is launching its service, I am sure that the total number of Internet users in Singapore will grow even more rapidly. The keen competition, aggressive promotion and attractive pricing options will attract even more new Internet users.

5 At the same time, users will be looking to the service providers to improve the quality of service, especially the speed and reliability of connection and data transfer. The latest moves by the service providers to increase the capacity of their links to the US and to increase the number of lines for dial up are certainly welcome. A larger user base and improved quality should also spawn innovative services over the Internet, providing users with a richer choice of Internet products - over and above basic access.

6 The Government is strongly encouraging the growth of the internet services business. This is part of our strategy to be a key information and business hub for the region.

7 From a standing start, the billings of the local Internet services industry mushroomed to \$10 million in the last year. In Singapore, there are now over 20 companies, employing 500 staff, whose sole or main business is Internet services. Services such as Internet access, web-page design, as well as Internet systems integration, have, over the last year, become part of our IT industry. With the launch of CyberWay today, we should see healthy growth in Internet usage, and there is every likelihood that the Internet services sector will double in 1996.

8 The potential of the Internet business can be seen from the US example where in the US alone, billings from on-line services are expected to reach \$18 billion in 1998 with 30% growth annually. Since the nature of the Internet is such that businesses are not limited by physical boundaries, there are tremendous opportunities for our local companies to participate in the global market.

9 More companies, both large and small, are trying out the Internet and learning how to exploit it as a new medium for reaching out to customers, for keeping in close contact with suppliers, and for working more effectively with partners. They are discovering that Internet e-mail is cheaper than a fax, and more convenient than a phone call. Corporate information is rapidly obtained by searches conducted by a few keystrokes and mouse-clicks. The ease of communication itself is transforming the way we conduct our business. More companies now have their own worldwide web page. The number who have embraced the net and fully integrated it into their business practices is still small, but it is these pioneering companies who are in a position to reap the largest rewards.

10 For instance, the Internet allows Federal Express and UPS to keep their customers up-to-date on the whereabouts of their packages. Just by entering a tracking number at their web-page, you can immediately find out exactly where your parcel is.

11 It is possible to have a worldwide customer base for your product, whether it is books, hotel rooms or Harley-Davidsons, and receive bookings and orders via the net.

12 Our own Public Service Division recently conducted a recruitment exercise over the Internet. It received over 800 inquiries and 200 applications over a two-week period.

13 However, simply publishing an existing corporate brochure on the worldwide web will not give you much of an edge. Businesses need to think about innovative ways of applying Internet technologies to transform their businesses and profitability. As businesses demand more out of the Internet, the local Internet industry will have to come up with innovative solutions.

14 The recently announced On-line Technologies Consortium, set up by the National Computer Board and several local industry players, will develop enabling technologies and solutions crucial to the on-line

services industry. This will help accelerate the growth of the industry in Singapore and help us become the information and communication hub of the region.

15 Schools, community centres, libraries and the unions have latched on and are promoting the knowledge and use of the Internet. More and more homes will be connected. This is a good sign. Workers and students must be comfortable with the technology so that they can function effectively in our future inter-connected world.

16 But we, like other countries and communities in the world, do not believe that we must allow unfettered information flow on the Internet in order to enjoy its benefits. Communities in America, Germany and elsewhere, also do not want the Internet to become the medium for spreading undesirable material whether it be pornography, racist attacks or religious extremism.

17 Rather than hindering the development of the Internet, some structure, rules and norms of behaviour will be beneficial and help to realise the full potential of the Internet. Of course, regulation of the Net will not be easy nor can it be complete. On our highways and in our neighbourhoods, anti-social behaviour such as reckless driving or littering cannot be completely eliminated. But that does not mean we give up trying and allow these problems to fester and spread. By community action we can keep our streets clean, and our parks safe for our kids to enjoy. We must do the same for the Net.

18 I wish CyberWay success, and I welcome all users of CyberWay to cyberspace.

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02-1/96/02/28

SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER GOH CHOK TONG
AT THE DINNER HOSTED IN HONOUR OF
THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,
HE JACQUES CHIRAC AT RAFFLES HOTEL
ON WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 1996 AT 8.00 PM

National Archives of Singapore

It is a great honour to welcome you to Singapore. You are the first-ever French President to visit Singapore officially.

I. Your presence here today reflects the warmth in relations between France and Singapore and our good personal ties.

3 Our two countries enjoy a tradition of cooperation, understanding and mutual respect. Neither the geographical divide nor our different historical experiences have hindered our relationship. Indeed, we share the same pragmatic views on many international issues. It is this shared vision that has brought our two countries together in a partnership for greater growth, peace and prosperity.

4 France is a nation of proud civilisation and rich heritage, but one also full of enterprise, innovation and adventure. It is a country shaped by the character and perseverance of its people who have overcome crises and wars while retaining an inalienable belief in liberty and