

*Senior Minister
Singapore*

11 December 2008

Mdm Junisa
Jalan Benda No.19
Kemang Selatan
Jakarta 12560
Indonesia

Dear Ibu Junisa,

The news of Pak Ali's passing this morning came as a surprise and shock to me. He looked well on the road to recovery when I visited him at Mount Elizabeth Hospital last Friday. He was as alert, charming and gracious as ever. I am glad to have at least seen him before his unexpected demise and shall remember my last conversation with him and you about family and grandchildren.

My wife and I are deeply saddened and wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to you and your family during this difficult time.

I have known Pak Ali for many years and had the opportunity to work closely with him on several occasions. He was a skilled diplomat who was extremely well versed in international affairs, and was highly respected not only in Indonesia but also among the ASEAN nations and all over the world. A firm believer in regional cooperation, he played a critical role in the drafting of the ASEAN Charter. Pak Ali was also instrumental in developing closer ties between Singapore and Indonesia.

I respect him not just for his contributions to national and international affairs but also for his qualities as a leader and human being. I have always known him as a trustworthy, reliable and upright man.

His passing is a great loss to us all. Pak Ali's legacy of achievements will continue to live on.

With deepest sympathies,

Yours sincerely


GOH CHOK TONG