



MFA/PD1/00014/2002

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore presents its compliments to the Malaysian High Commission and has the honour to refer to the latter's Note EC 56/02 dated 14 March 2002 (referred to as "the Note") and to the correction conveyed in Note EC 57/02 dated 20 March 2002.

The Singapore Government takes note of the commitment by the Malaysian Government to resolve the issue of water in the context of an agreement on the overall package of issues as agreed upon between Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and Prime Minister Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Hanoi in 1998. The Singapore Government also takes note of the assurance that "at no time was there a suggestion that the Government of Malaysia would depart from such a commitment." In this regard, the Singapore Government, on its part, also reiterates its commitment in reaching a mutually beneficial agreement on the package of outstanding issues.

The Note also refers to the latest Malaysian proposals on the package of issues as contained in Prime Minister Mahathir's letter to Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew of 4 March 2002. Senior Minister Lee has replied to Prime Minister Mahathir on 11 March 2002 that these proposals have completely changed from what was discussed between the two leaders at their meetings in August 2000 and September 2001, and as exchanged in the notes and letters subsequent to those meetings. Senior Minister Lee informed Prime Minister Mahathir that the Singapore Government is presently studying

the Malaysian Government's new proposals and will convey its response in due course. Once both sides have set out their respective positions, the officials, led by the two Foreign Ministers, can meet in Kuala Lumpur at a mutually agreed date.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Malaysian High Commission the assurances of its highest consideration.

**SINGAPORE**

**25 March 2002**

**Malaysian High Commission**

**Singapore**

