



PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

27 January 2008

HE Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
President
Republic of Indonesia

Dear *Mr. President,*

I am saddened to learn of the passing away of former President Soeharto. Throughout his lifetime, Pak Soeharto did so much to govern the fractious country he took charge of with all its diversity, and built a successful nation within a short space of time. He inherited a broken-back economy, but managed to shape and move it into the modern state that Indonesia now is. He brought Indonesia to a healthy and strong position and gave her and her people many years of prosperity and stability. On behalf of the people of Singapore and my own behalf, I send my deepest condolences to the people of Indonesia and Pak Soeharto's family over the bereavement.

The region has lost a great statesman. With his keen understanding of the regional dynamics and as one of ASEAN's Founding Fathers, Pak Soeharto helped forge Southeast Asian unity and ASEAN's consolidation. As a staunch regionalist, he provided the leadership and moderation, making smaller neighbours comfortable with working together with Indonesia as equals to consolidate ASEAN into a premier regional organisation.

It is a tribute to your leadership, Mr President, to accord Pak Soeharto the honour of a befitting funeral to bid a final farewell to an illustrious Southeast Asian leader, statesman and a worthy son of Indonesia.

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

S R NATHAN