

*Senior Minister
Singapore*

8 September 2001

Dear Mahathir

Thank you for receiving me on Tuesday 4 September and moving the package forward.

Upon my return, I have briefed Prime Minister Goh and Cabinet of our discussions and they have given in-principle approval of our oral agreement. They have stressed the importance of settling and signing the agreement on the whole package.

You asked me at the end of the meeting whether work on the bridge can proceed. I said yes, we are unlikely to withdraw our offer. On my return, my secretary had a discussion with the Minister for National Development and his officials in charge of the bridge and reclamation project. He learnt that there are many technical details that need to be sorted out regarding the bridge and reclamation. As I had said to you, Singapore will be reclaiming our side nearly to the boundary, and will build our side of the bridge to meet up with the Malaysian side at the boundary. Officials of our Ministry of National Development said that the technical details regarding contour of the reclamation and the design of the bridge, and how the two sides of the bridge would join up have to be sorted out. It is necessary to settle these details before work on the bridge begins as was done when the two sides built the Second Link or the two segments will not meet smoothly at our international boundary. These technical discussions may take some time, so I suggest that officials in charge of the bridge and reclamation project on both sides should begin discussions early on these issues. Our officials are ready to meet up with their Malaysian counterparts.

Best wishes.

*Yours Sincerely
Lee Kuan Yew*

**YAB Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad
Prime Minister
Malaysia**