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**Title:**  
Press statement - Telegram to Lee Kuan Yew

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PRESS STATEMENT: 12/1/71

FROM: THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN)

A telegram from the South Australian Premier (Mr. Dunstan) to the Singapore Prime Minister (Mr. Lee Kuan Yew) has called for closer and more effective immigration ties between Australian and Singapore. It was lodged in Adelaide today and wishes success to the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference which opens in Singapore on Thursday, as well as to Singapore as host nation.

The telegram reads:

Dear Harry - My best wishes for the success of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference and for your Nation's hosting of it. As Premier, Minister of Immigration and Development in South Australia I would like to say that my Labor Government looks forward to the day when the closest and most effective ties with Singapore are formed between my State and the Australian Nation as a whole in trade, culture and immigration.

(Signed) Don Dunstan, Premier of South Australia.

Mr. Dunstan, a personal friend of Lee Kuan Yew, said in Adelaide today that he firmly believed Australia's future was tied to Asia. His State has already stolen a march on other States by setting up trade agencies in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Mr. Dunstan said because it was expected that during the Singapore Conference Australia would try and defend a White Australia he had wanted to show that neither he nor his Government would support such a discriminatory policy.

Mr. Dunstan said, "Australia must open its gates to people from any country in the world, and end the White Australia policy.

"We can no longer afford to bury our heads, ostrich like in isolation, keeping closed the gates to our shores.

"One of the significant factors leading to the Second World War was the American attitude to Asians, especially Japanese migrants, which justifiably offended all thinking Asians".

Mr. Dunstan said Australia could no longer afford to be lumped with South Africa as a country basing its policies on racial discrimination.

"The Federal Government should make it clear that Australia is prepared to take a flow of migrants, balanced in both background and education, from any country in the world, irrespective of their colour.

"A balanced annual intake of migrants would fit easily into the mainstream of life of the present Australian community.

Mr. Dunstan said a balanced intake would prevent the setting up of ghettos.

"They would become Australians like other Australians but with the advantage to the rest of us that they could contribute to the development of a significant Australian culture."

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