

SINGAPORE -- Tiny Nation in Hurry

Singapore — Singapore, the Lion City, is a tiny nation in a big hurry. Everyone is on the move working for success—for unless success is achieved, the country is doomed to financial bankruptcy and absorption by larger powers.

Singapore, the nation, is 224.5 square miles of tropical island just above the Equator at the tip of the Malay Peninsula.

Singapore, the city, is a colorful, highly populated, highly industrialized and highly romanticized area of 37 square miles on the island's southern shore. Its port—the fifth largest in the world—is the maritime crossroads of Southeast Asia.

Cast out of the Federation of Malaysia in 1965, Singapore, under its prime minister Lee Kuan Yew, is trying to make a go of things on its own.

Lee is Singapore's greatest asset. He is at 45 honest, hard-working, intelligent (a law degree from Cambridge) and demanding strict about getting things done for Singapore.

He might be called the benign but absolute ruler. He has slapped the leaders of the opposition—Communists and Socialists alike—into prison. He has declared a plague on both the houses of Peking and Taipei, opting for near absolute neutrality toward Red China and Nationalist China, because his tiny nation of nearly two million—75 per cent of whom are Chinese—simply cannot afford to take sides.

At one time, the Chinese Communists had heavily infiltrated the schools of Singapore and the all-Chinese Nanyang University, but they have been driven under-



This is Part 2 of seven articles on the Southeast Asian nations of Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan and the subcontinent of India, written by Father William J. Richardson, editor of Maryknoll Publications. A former NC correspondent on Taiwan and currently engaged in a doctoral degree program at the Asian Center at St. John's University, Father Richardson is on an 11-nation tour of Southeast Asia gathering material for a book.

ground by Lee's hard-fisted politics.

Five years ago, the Communist-controlled Socialist front polled 36 per cent of the vote in Singapore. In 1967, the Socialist front didn't even run—for fear of indicating that its strength had

dropped to 10 per cent of the electorate, one Peoples' Action Party (P.A.) man proudly told me. However, it would have done the Communists little good to enter the race with their leadership in prison. Today they are waiting and watching to see if Lee will make it financially.

Exports in Singapore are up 10 per cent. Manufacturing is up more than 16 per cent. Foreign investments have reached \$200 million U.S. dollars, and the country's cash reserves stand at half a billion dollars.

Unemployment, however, is the great danger. The country has a labor force of 550,000. Ten per cent of the force is unemployed, and this number is increasing by 25,000 annually.

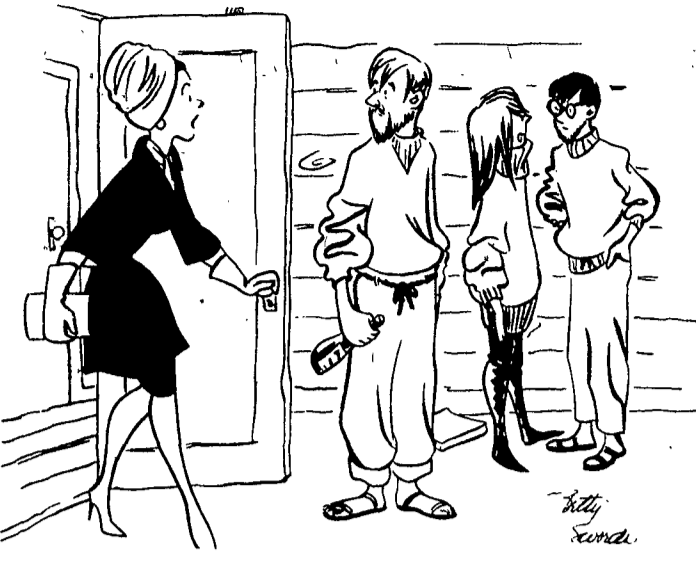
A recent blow to the economy was the announcement that all British bases in Singapore will close in 1971—not later in the mid-70s as had been expected—dumping an additional 30,000 to 40,000 workers into the streets.

Singapore's government, in an area where corruption is commonplace, is incorruptible. It is also pragmatic to the extreme. Whatever does not lend itself to industrial development is discarded, and this includes some educational projects, and subjects such as philosophy which is being replaced by more immediately useful math or science courses.

One also wonders just where ideology, other than that disseminated by the P.A.P., fits into Lee Kuan Yew's scheme. It probably doesn't—nor does religion, which is merely tolerated.

Lee's autocratic rule may be very necessary to keep the economy growing and the high standard of living up, but such near totalitarian rule is always a danger should it fall to a man less devoted and incorrupt. Lee Kuan Yew's guided socialism certainly needs some check on its absolute rule. At the moment, all opposition is behind bars.

NEXT WEEK: The Thailand of Bangkok and Nakhom Phanom.



"Forgive my appearance— I came straight from the office and didn't have time to change"

Family Rosary

The Family Rosary for Peace program is broadcast each evening at 7 p.m. by Rochester radio station WSAY, WMOB-FM in Auburn, television cable companies Channel 5 in Hornell, Channel 8 in Elmira and \$8.75 mc. in Corning. Those who will lead in recitation of the Rosary this week are:

- Friday, Sept. 13 — Emery Donald Crevier, Blessed Sacrament.
- Saturday, Sept. 14—Mass will be celebrated. St. Patrick's Fraternity, Third Order of St. Francis, will attend.
- Sunday, Sept. 15 — Edward Nassar, St. Patrick's.
- Monday, Sept. 16 — Donald Dohr, Holy Name of Jesus, with Knights of St. John.
- Tuesday, Sept. 17 — Rev. Mr. William Endres, St. Salome's.
- Thursday, Sept. 19 — Louis Dollinger, St. Louis, Pittsford.

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New Song 'God Is Alive' Looms as Monroe Hit

Catholic Press Features
New York — It is now on record that "God Is Alive," thanks to Vaughn Monroe.

Monroe, whose rich baritone voice is associated with "Ghost Riders in the Sky," "Ballarina," "Racing with the Moon" and other songs during the 1940s and 50s, recently recorded a 28-year-old songwriter's response to the "God Is Dead" controversy, and the song, "God Is Alive," is starting to take off, as they say in the record business.

Monroe's version, which has been offered to date only by mail order, has already sold 18,000 45 RPMs, but it's been enough to get other singers very interested.

Aliza Kashi, an Israeli singer who is a regular on "The Merv Griffin Show," heard Monroe's version and decided to sing "God Is Alive" on Griffin's nationally syndicated TV program. The response was so enthusiastic that she has repeated it several times on the show, made it the finale of her nightclub act, and recorded it herself.

Singer Jimmy Dean heard her sing it on the Griffin show and now he is about to record it too.

The result is that "God Is Alive" is on its way to becoming the "I Believe" of the 1960s.

In fact, it was Vaughn Monroe's search for an "I Believe" type of song that led to his decision to record "God Is Alive," according to his manager, Irving Siders. Monroe gained his early singing experience by singing in church choirs and "he's always leaned toward Gospel and spiritual songs," although "Ghost Riders in the Sky" (about a cowboy's vision of Hell) is the only such song Monroe is known for until now.

Although Monroe disbanded his famous orchestra, he has been making singing appearances in nightclubs and at private functions and, like the Mills Brothers and Frankie Laine and other famous voices of the past, is attempting a comeback.

"God Is Alive," written by Joseph Fanelli and Don Christopher, was listed by "Cash-Box," the music-trade journal, as one of its "best bets" when that publication recently reviewed Monroe's recording. "Enticing melody, pretty arrangement and strong performance," the reviewer said.

The lyrics, reprinted here by permission of the Notable Music Corp., are:

"Flowers still bloom in the springtime / Raindrops still make them grow / Autumn follows the summer / A child still wishes for snow.

"Old folks grow tired and leave us / But each new baby arrives / Someone makes all of this happen / It's so clear that God is alive.

"Boys still grow up to be soldiers / And wars breed



VAUGHN MONROE

hatred and fear / But wars are started by people / Who just don't believe God is here.

"Somehow some still deny him / Saying God is dead Yet man has come and man has gone / And still His world lives on and on / His love will survive / Yes, God is alive."

Rev. Francis X. Keul, editor of the "Catholic Standard & Times" of the Philadelphia Archdiocese, who writes a music column for his paper, said "the tasteful conceal vast theological truth beneath the simplicity of the popular song."

"And," he added, "they are set to music which, while not extraordinary in itself, has a pleasant flow and beat—a tune the whole family can quickly learn to sing. Best of all, it is almost completely devoid of the mawkishness which all too often afflicts Tin Pan Alley's infrequent forays into the world of religion."

The idea for the song came to Fanelli (who sings under the name of Johnny Faro and who is also about to re-

cord it for a major company) at 4 a.m. one morning last January when, unable to sleep, he was thumbing through the "New York Times" book-review section and noted the various books being written about the "God is Dead" philosophy.

"I started with the lyric right then, and the next day talked the idea over with my songwriter partner, Don Christopher, and we finished it in a day or so," Fanelli said. "The day after we finished making a 'demonstration' record, we got a call from Vaughn Monroe's A&R man (the person who selects an artist's repertoire) and he said Vaughn was looking for an 'I Believe' type of song and wanted to know if we could find one."

St. Francis College Names Layman Dean of Students

Joseph Donoghue of 135 Barton St. has become dean of students at St. Francis College, Loretto, Pa. He is the first layman to hold the position.

The college is operated by the Third Order Regular Franciscan Fathers.

Donoghue is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Donoghue. He was educated at Aquinas Institute, class of 1948, and Michigan State University. For the past four years he has been dean of men at the University of Detroit.



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FOREIGN STUDENTS

The Rochester International Friendship Council will play host to approximately 500 students from all over the world at an American-style picnic in Genesee Valley Park this Sunday afternoon, Sept. 15.

ORATORIO SOCIETY INVITES

The Rochester Oratorio Society has invited potential members to the first rehearsal of its 24th season, Sept. 9 at Columbia School, 22 S. Goodman. All rehearsals are scheduled for Mondays, at 7:15 p.m., at the school.

Mendelssohn's "Elijah" will be prepared for presentation Nov. 10 at the Eastman Theater, and Handel's "Messiah" for Dec. 15.

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