SINGAPORE-UNITED STATES SECURITY RELATIONS AND PERCEPTIONS WITHIN ASEAN

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in thesis is on my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledge.

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ABSTRACT

Singapore and the United States (U.S.) share an extremely strong and multifaceted relationship, and in recent years both countries have broadened their relations in areas of economic, information technology, and security. Singapore sees the problem of survivability in a Malay and Muslim Southeast Asia and this explains the latter’s engagement with the U.S. in security issues in Southeast Asia especially by providing logistics support and infrastructure. With the provision of these facilities to the US, close neighbours to Singapore seem to be unhappy as this contradicts the ASEAN policy of ZOPFAN. Hypothetically having close relationships and a bandwagoning behavior with a powerful nation enhances the security and survival of a small state like Singapore. This in return has created some dissatisfaction and different perceptions among the other ASEAN member states. The research intends to address the close relationship between these two countries in terms of security arrangements, the significance of the US presence in the region and the perceptions of other ASEAN members especially pertaining to Singapore’s preferred presence of the US in this region. In addition, the study will also explore how close cooperation with the US benefits Singapore’s security calculation especially to combat terrorism. The research will be based on the theory of “strategies for small state survival” which highlights that the small states like Singapore device strategies to enhance their territorial integrity by strengthening their defense capability as well as by seeking security arrangements with major power(s).
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