THE STRAITS TRADING COMPANY LIMITED

PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF MALAYSIA SMELTING CORPORATION BERHAD ('MSC')

The Straits Trading Company Limited wishes to inform that during the period from 23 March 2005 to 31 March 2005, shareholders holding 440,500 MSC shares (0.59%) have already accepted the unconditional take-over offer of up to 14,849,100 ordinary shares of RM1.00 each in MSC at a cash consideration of RM6.12 per MSC share by Straits Trading Amalgamated Resources Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Straits Trading Company Limited. The shareholdings of The Straits Trading Group in MSC stand at 50.79% as at 31 March 2005.

As far as the Company is aware, no Director or substantial shareholder of the Company has any interest, direct or indirect, in the aforesaid purchases, other than by reason of being such a Director or substantial shareholder. Y.A. Bhg. Jen (B) Tun Ibrahim Bin Ismail and Mr. Norman Ip Ka Cheung are common directors in the Company and MSC and currently own 10,000 shares and 100,000 shares respectively in MSC. Great Eastern Holdings Limited ('GEH'), a substantial shareholder of the Company, is deemed interested in 6,925,000 shares in MSC held by its subsidiaries. Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited, the holding company of GEH and substantial shareholder of the Company, is also deemed interested in the 6,925,000 shares in MSC.

Submitted by Emily Teo (Ms) Secretary

The Straits Trading Company Limited (Registration No. 188700008D) on 1/4/2005 to the SGX