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SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY MRS YONG NYUK LIN,
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF VISITORS (WOMEN & GIRLS) AT
THE OPENING OF THE BIENNIAL EXHIBITION AND SALE
OF WORK OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HOMES
AT 10.00 A.M. ON SATURDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 1974 AT
THE VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL

1 I am very happy to officiate at this Opening Ceremony of the biennial Exhibition and Sale of Work of Social Welfare Department Homes.

2 This Exhibition and Sale of Work is primarily intended to draw the attention of members of our public to the productive and rehabilitative work that is being carried out by the boys and girls as well as the old people now under the care of the various Welfare Homes administered by our Social Welfare Department.

3 The many articles and delicious food that you see on display and for sale, are from 13 homes (5 Girls' Homes, 5 Boys' Homes and 3 Old People's and Destitute Persons Homes). Without the advice, encouragement and assistance given by the dedicated voluntary social workers and the Staff of the Department, such a wide variety of articles and food would certainly not have been possible. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank these voluntary welfare workers and staff for their dedication and service to our community. It is good to know that there are people who do care about those less fortunate than themselves, and who have, without any fanfare, given up some of their time and energy to teach these children to develop new skills, or learn a new hobby, to help reduce the monotony of living in an institutional home, as distinct from the warmth and happiness of a real family home, which many of us are fortunate enough to have and to enjoy, and always take for granted.

4 To give your encouragement in a tangible way, not only to the residents of our Homes, but also to the Staff and the voluntary welfare workers, may I appeal to you all to give generously towards this Sale of Work. I am sure you will get good value for your money, since the articles that you buy will prove useful in your homes or as appropriate gifts to your relatives and friends during the current festive season.

5 The vocational and rehabilitative training programmes in the various Welfare Homes, are planned to give our residents plenty of opportunities to be engaged in productive work, to learn new skills and trades, to instil in them a sense of achievement, and to teach them the dignity of honest labour. To this end, I am pleased to add that the food catering scheme for parties and functions, started in the Girls' Homes has met with encouraging response from the public.

6 It may interest you to know that 50% of the Profits of today's Sale of Work, will be credited to our residents personal savings account to enable them to save up for the day when they will eventually leave our Homes and return to society as useful and productive citizens. I sincerely hope that you will continue to support and become regular customers of Social Welfare Homes' products and thus help the less fortunate ones in our Homes to help themselves.

7 And now, Ladies & Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in declaring this Exhibition and Sale of Work open and wish it every success.