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**SPEECH BY DR AHMAD MATTAR, MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF "CLEAN & GREEN WEEK 1992"
HELD AT THE EAST COAST PARK ON 7 NOV 92 AT 9.15 AM**

Once again, we have come to the close of another Clean & Green Week (CGW). This is the third consecutive year that we have organised the campaign. The first two CGWs were aimed at raising the environmental awareness of Singaporeans. In the course of the past one week, we have had activities and programmes designed to instill in Singaporeans a sense of ownership in the environment in which we all live in. Our objective for CGW '92 was to have Singaporeans of all ages coming forward to declare their personal commitment and responsibility towards environmental protection. Without personal commitment and responsibility, it is impossible to translate our environmental ambitions into action. I hope that we have achieved our objective this year and that CGW '92 has brought us one step nearer to achieving an environmentally committed population.

2 When I first saw the Commitment Tree, symbolically representing our theme for this year, it was in a sorry state. Its branches were bare and forlorn looking. But in just 7 days, you have transformed it with your personal leaves of commitment. The branches have now come alive and I feel very encouraged by the visible display of your commitment to the protection of the environment. I salute all of you, school children, home-makers, and members of public, for showing us that you too want an environment that we can feel proud of and safe to live in. I look forward to welcoming more Singaporeans to join in the ranks of the committed by visiting the Commitment Tree when it makes its round to other parts of Singapore during the course of the month.

3 Those of you who are still thinking of what to put down on your commitment leaf, let me remind you that simple actions such as not littering, using the recycling bins more, and conserving water and electricity will be a good start.

4 This year, as in previous years, we are pleased with the supportive response that the business community has shown towards the CGW. Through their generous contributions in support of the Ministry's activities and programmes, and through their own initiatives, they have all helped to make the 1992 CGW possible. I look forward to the continued support of the business community not only in future CGWs but throughout the year. I foresee that business organisations will play a more central role in future CGWs and in increasing their active support to environmental protection.

5 The 1992 CGW also saw the participation of a number of non-governmental environmental groups. I would like to highlight a few of them. We saw the Green Directory produced by Jalan Hijau; the Bahai Community adopted the West Coast Beach and Park; nature trails were organised by the Nature Society of Singapore, and the City Jaycees held a can-art competition. The active involvement of the many non-governmental groups in the 1992 CGW is testimony to the success of our CGWs in promoting environmental awareness.

6 This morning, I am pleased to acknowledge certain individuals, schools, corporate and non-governmental organisations who have demonstrated their responsibilities to the environment and are committed to its protection and preservation. Through their individual and group efforts, they have worked hard to promote and support the environmental cause. I will have the pleasure later on to present to them the 1992 Green Leaf Awards in appreciation and recognition of their contributions.

7 I am always inspired by the sense of commitment to the environment our school children display. They are our hope for a better environment. Many of them have participated this week in activities which have improved our environment. They have responded enthusiastically to the various competitions and contests organised for them. Some have organised their own initiatives in support of CGW. A large number participated at the Jamboree. I am encouraged and heartened that we have such environmentally conscious young people.

8 Now before I close CGW '92, I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the organisers of CGW '92 and all those who have helped to make it a success, especially the many sponsors from the business sector. To Singaporeans at large, I hope that you will remember your commitment and responsibility to the environment is a lasting commitment. Remember also that protecting the environment in which we all live is not just my responsibility, it is yours too. Every little step you take, every saving that you make in our precious resources and every person you encourage to do the same will ensure that together we make Singapore a better place in which to live, work and play. On this note, I declare the 1992 Clean & Green Week closed.

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Cc: INFORMATION5 (8812:GVT224)
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