

TO BE EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY

MG: APR/6/75(CULTURE)

SPEECH BY HAJI SHA'ARI TADIN, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY  
SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE AT THE  
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION "SIX FRENCH  
MASTERS OF PHOTOGRAPHY" ON THURSDAY, 3.4.75, AT  
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AT 5.30 P.M.

I consider it a great pleasure to be invited to officiate at this opening of an exhibition of 80 photographs by Six French Masters of Photography.

I find in the exhibition the result of a successful combination of human imagination and technological expertise. Behind every photograph successfully taken, developed and printed, there is the hand, or rather the eye, of an artist.

In photography, there must be, first of all, the camera. The better the camera the greater the chances of good photographs taken. But having a camera alone will not suffice. For example, we have heard of beginners having forgotten to fill in his roll of film, a comparatively inexperienced cameraman framing his pictures incorrectly and an artistically insensitive photographer producing pictures devoid of emotional content.

The Six French Masters of Photography whose works are featured in this exhibition have all excelled in the field of photography and are recognised to be artists and masters of photography. Each has managed with his camera to capture in the instance of a fleeting moment the drama of life, which daily unfolds, against the setting of their native land France.

Perhaps we may recall that just as a computer is as useful as the data programmed into it so also a camera is as good as the cameraman behind it.



It is my hope that in the days to come Singapore photographers will be able to introduce to our friends in France, through this same medium of photography, the many interesting and unique aspects of life and culture found in our own Republic.

I thank the Embassy of France in bringing this exhibition to Singapore and I am glad that the National Museum is able to organise it.

It is now with great pleasure that I declare the exhibition open.

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3 APRIL, 1975.