SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT   MC.NOV.19/75(CUL)

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SPEECH BY TUAN HAJI SHA'ARI TADIN, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARY (CULTURE), AT THE OPENING OF THE SOVIET FILM
FESTIVAL AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE ON SUN., NOV.9, AT 7.30 P.M.

In a world being made increasingly smaller by advancing
technology, it is imperative that all nations be conscious of the
need to constantly promote better understanding between the peoples
of different countries. Until quite recently, the peoples of the
Soviet Union and Singapore, for obvious geographical reasons, were
only remotely concerned with each other. Present circumstances,
however, are such that the entire world has become a single political,
economic and in some ways, even social entity. In such an inter-
dependent setting ignorance of the political, economic and cultural
make-up of other countries, if allowed to persist, may result in
consequences detrimental to the basic interests of a nation.

The Soviet Film Festival in Singapore has, in the past,
enabled Singaporeans to obtain a better idea of the cultural
wealth of the Soviet Union. With a long history of outstanding
achievements and a rich heritage, the Soviet influence in the arts
has always been profound. In this festival, the Singapore audience
will be treated to immortal classics like "Anna Karenina" and also
to scenes from the famous "Swane Lake" and "Carmen Suite" and
exquisite dancing by soloists of the Bolshoi Ballet.

I feel certain that one very important, although rather
intangible, result of this film festival will be the enhanced
appreciation and understanding of the Soviet people, their life
and culture by the people of Singapore. In the context of our
constant endeavour to improve relations with all countries, this
festival is a positive step in fostering close ties between our
two peoples and cultures.

I now take great pleasure in declaring this Soviet Film
Festival open.

NOVEMBER 9, 1975.   (Time issued: 1600 hours)