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SPEECH BY MR S DHANABALAN, MINISTER FOR CULTURE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SINGAPORE CULTURAL FOUNDATION, AT CERTIFICATE AND TROPHY PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE DBS AUDITORIUM ON MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 1981 AT 8.00 PM

I am very pleased to officiate at this Singapore Cultural Foundation ceremony to present certificates and trophies to the many individuals and the organisations which have contributed generously to the Foundation since December 1980.

The Foundation needs continuing support both in donations to the Foundation in the activities and projects funded by the Foundation. Only through such support can a better environment be created for the arts to develop in our nation.

The Foundation has in its roll of honour 52 Founder Members and 76 Friends; and it has raised \$3.4 million from donations and fund-raising projects, 230 other individuals and organisations having contributed \$500 or more. The total number of those who have donated to the Foundation is now 650.

I would like to take this opportunity to describe briefly what the Foundation has done so far and what it intends to do in the future. With the income earned on the capital fund, the Foundation had awarded grants to individuals and organisations for training and the upgrading of skills in all fields of the arts. Financial support has been given by the Foundation for projects such as lecture-demonstrations in the field of dance; workshops on music, literature and drama; a festival of music and an art exhibition; a scheme "Words Into Print" for the publication of works by Singapore writers; and a translation scheme to have the works published in one language to appear in the other languages of our multi-lingual society.

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The Foundation will be soon supporting a project to collect songs which were composed locally and which used to be very popular among youth groups 40-50 years ago. The Foundation will also engage a choreographer to inject new ideas in the creation of new dance forms by the national dance company.

The largest project to be supported by the Foundation is a resource centre for the fine arts to provide members of the public with a full range of print and non-print reference materials on the fine arts. The resource centre, to be housed in the National Library, will come into operation in September 1982. The Foundation will make a grant of \$150,000 to get the project going and will also meet the recurrent expenditure of about \$30,000 annually.

The Foundation will also contribute \$100,000 to help organise the Singapore Festival of Arts to be held in December 1982.

The Singapore Cultural Foundation can meet its objectives, and the arts in our Republic can flourish, only with the full cooperation and the enthusiastic participation of all. The Foundation still has some way to go to reach its target of \$5 million. The Foundation has decided to make provision for donors who want to earmark or designate their contributions for a specific purpose be it dance, drama, literature, music or the visual arts. They could also specify whether their contributions should be used for training purposes, for projects such as the staging of concerts or for the purchase of equipment.

We have quite rightly emphasized economic development and national security in our plans since independence. We certainly have a long way to travel before becoming an affluent society. But we have come to a point where we can give more attention to the development of the cultural life of our people without de-emphasising economic pursuits. We owe it to our future generations to bring such a balance to our society.

It remains for me to congratulate those of you who will this evening receive certificates and trophies for your contributions to the Singapore Cultural Foundation. I wish to thank you for your time and effort, and the contributions you have made, in support of the aim and the objectives of the Singapore Cultural Foundation.

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