

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, MR. ONG SOO CHUAN, AT THE
SINGAPORE CHESS FEDERATION PRIZE-GIVING AT THE
PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION ON SATURDAY, MAY 30, AT 4 P.M.

It is my pleasure to be present at your prize distribution event.

Chess is a game which is intellectually stimulating and satisfying. It provides both mental relaxation and occupation. Besides being an interesting past-time, chess, it seems to me, is a venue for the meeting of minds. It is a form of social contact between people transcending barriers of sex, race and religion. In this respect, chess can play an important role in nation-building, and should be popularised, so that more people take to this sport and discipline.

The popularity of chess in Singapore is on the increase as evidenced by the members and the activities of the Singapore Chess Federation. The Junior Section especially comprises students from the four language streams and more and more of our youth are playing the game. When two persons are engaged in an intellectual exercise over a game of chess there develops between them a healthy competition, better understanding and a friendly relationship.

The Singapore Chess Federation is a non-communal organisation and throws its doors open to all those who are keen on the game. I wish to assure you that the Government fully supports activities or such bodies as the Chess Federation who are in their own way doing a great social service.

I am happy to observe that your Federation has produced some very talented players, the most noteworthy of whom is, of course, Tan Lian Ann. Under your sponsorship I believe we can look forward to better standards of chess in Singapore and the possibility of winning more laurels in the international scene. May I congratulate your Federation for your splendid record of activity and achievement. I hope you will continue to popularise further the game of chess in Singapore. I wish you every success.

MAY 30, 1964.

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