

SPEECH BY H.E. THE YANG DI-PERTUAN NEGARA,
TUN YUSOF BIN ISHAK, AT THE OPENING OF THE
ST. JOHN ASSEMBLY HALL AT ST. JOHN HEADQUARTERS,
BEACH ROAD, ON OCTOBER 24, 1964, AT 4.30 P.M.

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It was more than four years ago that I, as President of the St. John Council, had the pleasure of declaring open this building as the Headquarters of the Singapore Centre of the the St. John's Ambulance Association and Brigade. Today, I am happy to be here again to open this Assembly Hall which is an important addition to the amenities of this Headquarters. The completion of this Hall, which has a floor space of 8,700 sq. feet and seating capacity for 1,300 persons, and which cost well over \$50,000/- to have it converted from the flat roof of this building, is largely due to the generous donations of two active members of the Association, Messrs Soon Peng Yam and Seah Boon Heng, to whom we are very grateful. Our warm thanks are also due to several other donors, namely:

Mr. Rumme Shaw, our Chairman, for electrical installation,
Senator Ko Teck Kin for the flooring, and
Mr. Ho Kok Yin, the Association's Honorary Secretary and Architect, for his services and expert advice.

Though last but not least, we also owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the 40 Base District Workshops of R.E.M.E., Singapore, who have so kindly presented one of the Commemoration Plaques in copper.

The voluntary work of St. John with its Motto "Service to Mankind" is well-known in Singapore and in the other Commonwealth countries.

Classes in First Aid - Home Nursing and kindred subjects continue to be held not only at Headquarters, but also throughout the State wherever a gathering of 30 or more enthusiastic persons are gathered together. These lectures are given on an entirely voluntary basis, and are of great value, not only to the mother, housewife or factory worker who may be able to save a life with knowledge thus gained, but also to those when called upon to assist in auxiliary hospital work and First Aid Posts and Clinics.

I would appeal to the public to continue their support for this worthwhile cause for the benefit of suffering humanity. Without your help we cannot carry out and fulfil the ever increasing demands upon our Organisation.

You have just witnessed the Ceremony of the Presentation of a new Ambulance more generously donated by the Shaw Foundation to whom I must express our grateful thanks. I think, perhaps, this is an opportune moment to remind the public that besides its many other public duties, our ambulances are always on call to transport the sick and aged to hospitals.

I have now great pleasure in declaring this Assembly Hall open, and wish all those who use it success and prosperity in their dedicated work.

OCTOBER 24, 1964.

(Time issued: 1400 hours)

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