

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC. NOV. 15/64 (137/64)

TEXT OF SPEECH BY TOH PUAN NOOR AISHAH AT THE
OPENING OF THE COMBINED WELFARE SERVICES EXHIBI-
TION AND SALE OF WORK AT THE VICTORIA MEMORIAL
HALL ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, AT 10.30 A.M.

I am happy and honoured to be asked to open this Combined Welfare Services Exhibition and Sale of Work sponsored by the Singapore Council of Social Services.

In recent months we have come to realise the importance of goodwill and harmony among the various races. Our recent experience has shown that the absence of goodwill leads to suspicion and fear between peoples. Suspicion and fear can be kindled by agitators into hatred and violence. The best way to prevent a repetition of such tragedies is to re-emphasise the basic, latent goodwill of the different communities towards one another.

But the spreading of goodwill is no new thing to welfare workers. Our welfare organisations and social workers have, by their activities, helped to spread goodwill among the various communities. By working for the good of our peoples, regardless of race or religion, they have helped to achieve real understanding and harmony among our citizens. Welfare work is indeed goodwill expressed in action.

The Singapore Council of Social Service is the main voluntary welfare organisation in Singapore. Its job is to co-ordinate the work of all the major welfare organisations in the State. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Council, its member organisations, and the many workers who are involved in social work for their important contribution not only to the social work of the State but also to the spread of goodwill through their social work.

Members of the public owe a lot to the Council and its organisations and social workers. They can show their gratitude and admiration in many ways. The best way, of course, is to join this growing army of voluntary social workers in our country to help the under-privileged and the neglected. This Exhibition and Sale of Work is another opportunity for the public to express their thanks and support for the social workers of the State.

I therefore take great pleasure in declaring this Exhibition and Sale of Work open.

NOVEMBER 7, 1964.

(Time issued: 1700 hours)