

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS,
INCHE OTHMAN WOK, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
RECEPTION FOR THE SINGAPORE SEAP GAMES
CONTINGENT AT SRI TEMASEK AT 7.30 P.M. ON
THURSDAY, 30.12.65.

118

It is my pleasant duty this evening to welcome home the 280 competitors and officials comprising our country's contingent to the Third SEAP Games in Kuala Lumpur recently.

Singapore won 26 gold medals, 23 silver medals and 27 bronze medals, coming in third out of the 7 nations participating in the SEAP Games. This result is quite good considering that we are the youngest nation, barely four months old when we toddled our way to the SEAP Games to run, swim, lift weight, shoot and judo our way to a 26 carat gold success.

Whilst on the subject of gold, I would like to single out for special congratulation our Golden Girl, Miss Patricia Chan, Singapore's 11 year old swimming wonder, who won eight gold medals in this International Meet. This is, I believe, a world record, no other individual competitor having ever achieved this feat in any part of the world during an International Meet. I have also been given to understand that, according to our officials and statisticians, Miss Pat Chan is the world's fastest girl in the water in her events for her age group. This young lady of ours is, indeed, a credit to Singapore and I am sure all of you will join me in extending to her our best wishes for greater glory in Bangkok and in Mexico City!

Another young person deserving special mention is Mr. Tan Thuan Heng who won five gold medals and broke an Asian record. The consistency and determination with which this young man has made progress is a credit to our Lion City. Between the two of them they account for 50% of Singapore's gold medals.

It would be invidious to mention more names and I therefore would like now to mention instead the sports associations which have done particularly well. These are swimming, which tops the list with 18 gold medals, athletics (four gold medals) shooting (two gold medals) weightlifting (one gold medal) and judo (one gold medal).

While congratulating these associations as well as those other associations and individuals who have won gold, silver and bronze medals, let us not forget the hard work put in by the officials, both those responsible for preparation and training as well as those who went up with the contingent.

In particular, let us congratulate the SOSC officials from Mr. A.T. Rajah, the President and Mr. Tang Tuck Wah, the Chef de Mission, down to the lowest ranking official and helper. Without their hard work and dedicated service to sports, it would not have been possible for Singapore to put up such a good show.

With the formation of the Singapore Sports Council it should now be possible to look forward to greater participation in international events. However, this implies that we must spruce up our managerial capabilities whilst raising the standard of discipline and ability of our athletes. We want to make sure that when we send out our contingents they will acquit themselves very well. If the officials and the athletes can promise us that they will do their part in this respect, I can promise them that, through the Singapore Sports Council, they will have a better chance to prove themselves in the international sports arenas than they ever enjoyed before.

....3/-

We have won some laurels on this occasion. Let us not rest on them. We face great challenges next year and even greater ones in the years to come. We must now begin to prepare ourselves, both sportsmen as well as sports officials, so that we may, in the not-too-distant future, make our mark and proudly write the name of our country, "SINGAPORE", in bold gold letters across the sports fields of the world.

Finally, before I conclude, I am sure all of you would join with me in thanking His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Singapore, Inche Yusof bin Ishak, and our First ~~Lady~~, Puan Noor Aishah, for having kindly accepted our invitation to join us in this celebration. Both His Excellency and Puan Noor Aishah have been keenly interested in the progress of sports in Singapore and it is an honour and a pleasure to all of us to have them with us this evening. We all hope that they are enjoying themselves and we look forward to having the pleasure of their company on future similar occasions.

Thank you.

DECEMBER 30, 1965.

TIME ISSUED: 1430 hours
