

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10.30 a.m. ON 22.7.69

Speech by Inche Buang bin Omar Junid,
Parliamentary Secretary (Social Affairs)
on the occasion of the Presentation of
a cheque for \$14,000 by Dato Aw Cheng
Chye, Chairman of the Chung Khiaw Bank,
to the Sports Promotion Fund, at the
Ministry of Social Affairs Conference
Room on Tuesday, 22.7.69 at 10.30 a.m.

The Singapore Government supports strongly the organisation of Sport in our Republic because Sports helps to build the minds and bodies of our young people besides providing healthy recreation for all. Since the Government's budget for the promotion of Sport can never be enough to meet our ever growing needs, I am always happy to see the public coming forward to help the Government in promoting Sport. Moreover, voluntary service is characteristic of our way of life in Singapore, and the participation of all sectors of the community in any organisation is the best guarantee for its vitality and success.

2. Chess is a Sport which emphasises mental ability rather than physical skills yet those who have attended chess tournaments as I have, appreciate that chess champions must have physical stamina as well as intellectual powers. Our growing Republic has need of people with such gifts, so it is gratifying to see that Chess has such a large and active following in the schools.

3. Last year, our Singapore Team gained distinction for Singapore in the World Chess Olympiads by winning the Group D Championship. Although this victory cannot be compared with that of the Russian Team in Group A in the same competition, our success in a world class competition is certainly meritorious and has been, without doubt, a source of inspiration to chess players as well as to chess supporters in Singapore amongst whom I include my humble self.

4. That these are not empty words is proven by the fact that the Sports Promotion Fund will contribute \$1,500 towards the expenses of organising the Festival of Chess which will be held next month as part of our National celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of Singapore.

5. The Chung Khiaw Bank must have been similarly inspired, and more ardently, for the Bank has also come forward with a handsome donation for the organisation of the Festival of Chess. I congratulate the Singapore Chess Federation for having such a wonderful friend and for receiving a well deserved reward for their enterprise and vision. The Singapore Chess Federation, in fact, is probably one of the first national bodies to make plans for celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Singapore because more than six years ago she applied for the East Asian Zone Chess Championship to be held in Singapore in 1969. This imaginative sort of forward-thinking is what Singapore needs.

6. I have pleasure in accepting on behalf of the Sports Promotion Fund, the donation of \$14,000 from the Chung Khiaw Bank Ltd. of Singapore. I am confident that in the hands of such imaginative people as the members of the Singapore Chess Federation, this donation will be used to the best advantage to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Singapore in a memorable manner.