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Ladies & Gentlemen,

There are still many of us who do not understand the actual structure and objectives of the United Nations Organisation. Some of us are even disappointed at the lack of real achievement in terms of peace and progress by the United Nations Organisation.

However, what is generally forgotten is that the United Nations Organisation represents the best interests of the countries and people of the world and it is they who ultimately can decide on its successes or otherwise. For this there must exist a general conviction that the United Nations Organisation has a definite role to play in the affairs of the world, whether it is in resolving international disputes or whether in improving the standard of living of mankind. One way to achieve this, surely, is for all of us to have a better understanding and awareness of the principles and purposes of the United Nations Organisation.

Singapore reflects the spirit of the United Nations in that we have people from all over the world living here in peace and harmony. We have succeeded because we have gone out of our way to cultivate the quality of tolerance to overcome other irrational emotions that bind us to our native cultures. We have an obligation to extend our experiment in living, to the world at large.

It was for the purpose of promoting greater awareness and appreciation of the role and function of the United Nations that I understand that the United Nations Association of Singapore was formed. This International Food and Fun Fair is to raise funds for the Association to further its objectives. This and other functions organised by the Celebrations Committee deserve our support. May I take this opportunity to wish the organisers every success in their efforts.

I have now great pleasure in declaring open this International Food and Fun Fair.