

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC. SEPT. 20/70 (EDUF)

TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, INCHE MCHD. GHAZALI ISMAIL, AT
THE VARIETY CONCERT ORGANISED BY THE UCO BANK RECREATION
CLUB AT THE VICTORIA THEATRE ON SUN., SEPT. 6, AT 7.30 P.M.

I am happy to wish you this evening when you celebrate the second anniversary of the UCO Bank Recreation Club. The objectives of this club are spelt out in your constitution and have been briefly outlined by your chairman. There are various ways of celebrating an anniversary. Your executive committee has very thoughtfully arranged this multi-cultural variety concert to mark your anniversary. I congratulate you for this. As you are aware, Singapore cannot boast of a long history. However, we are a fortunate people composed of different ethnic groups, with a long history and colourful cultural heritage. We have inherited this Island Republic, our Singapore, at a time, when perhaps most of the world had serious doubts about the future of this "eye" of South-East Asia. Thanks to the wisdom of our leaders and the determination of our people to survive and progress, we have attained the present stature. There is increasing awareness in the need for regional co-operation for the advancement of commerce and industry with a view to furthering economic progress all round so that both the subversive elements and the big powers cannot push us around. Progress in commerce and industry means flourishing banking business too. Therefore, the future of bankers and bank employees, as I see it, is quite bright. Organisations such as these can go on celebrating many more happy anniversaries. We have reached that stage of social evolution and economic progress from where we can afford to look into our "style" of living. Music, drama, painting, dance, literature - all aspects of fine-arts must flourish. Man does not live by bread alone. You have to look into material aspects of the life as well as the needs of the spirit. Good garden, greenery and cleanliness are good for a healthy life and they also add to the style of life. Anti-pollution campaign, anti-litter campaign, anti-spitting campaign are all aimed at achieving this standard of style in our life - a more gracious living.

All these do not mean that the future is too rosy and our voyage a smooth one. There is no room for complacency. We cannot leave things to chances. We have to be vigilant all the time; we have to be more hard working than ever - the faith in a common destiny should be as strong as ever.

Learn what you can of your neighbouring countries. Regional co-operation is the wave of the future. Storm clouds have been gathering around us. We might be the "eye" of South-East Asia. Let

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us hope we do not end up as the "eye" of a storm. But we cannot afford to think that we can escape any turbulence in our area.

I would like to thank you on behalf of my wife and myself for inviting us to witness the variety concert. I have pleasure in declaring open this variety concert.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1970.

(Time issued: 1600 hours)
