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Speech from Enche Othman Wok, Minister for Social Affairs at the Asian Cycling Federation Special Meeting on 15th December, 1970 at 19 ...

in Bangkok

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am doubly pleased to be here today, both to welcome you all with fraternal feelings to this special meeting and to invite you, as President of the Federation as well as the Minister for Sports and Chairman of the National Sports Promotion Board in Singapore, to Singapore in October, 1971 to participate in the 5th Asian Cycling Championships, which my country has been given the privilege and pleasure to host.

2. We are all deeply indebted to the Thai Cycling Association and particularly to its President, Police Lt. General Torsakdi Yonak and Hon. Secretary Seree Thairat for the arrangements made and hospitality shown for this meeting. I am sure all of us always look forward to a visit to Bangkok, whose picturesque beauty and quaint charm never stop to excite the tourists like us.

3. I must say that we are really looking forward to the 5th Asian Cycling Championships in Singapore. We are, however, with mixed feelings of joy as well as concern in this regard, since we are conscious of the fact that we do not as yet have the facilities of a Velodrome in Singapore. Despite this we have been given the honour and we assure you that we will do

our level best to make the Championships the success that they should be and your stay in Singapore both pleasant and memorable.

4. Singapore has been varyingly called as Instant Asia, as a world in miniature, as a place where East meets West and as a melting pot of the cultures of the Orient and the Occident. We are a Republic of a little over 200 square miles with a little over 2 million people. In this context, for those of you who have not been to Singapore you will find your visit a novel experience of many different experiences in a relatively short time.

5. These sporting events like the Cycling Championships really provide an opportunity for countries and peoples in Asia to get together in friendship and generate goodwill and camaraderie. I, therefore, hope that the 5th Asian Cycling Championships in Singapore will see further progress in this Sport, judged by more and better representation from the countries in Asia and higher standards of skills and performances. After all, the bicycle has been the most popular and useful means of transportation of the peoples of Asia and cycling should be considered as a popular and competitive sport in Asian countries.

6. I am pleased to inform you that the Executive Committee of the International parent organisation for Cycling, the FIAC, has recognised the 5th Asian Cycling Championships and will

insert the event in their International Calendar and, thereby, give official character also to the title of Continental Champion (for Asia) for the winners of the individual and team events in the Championships.

7. May I conclude my remarks by thanking you all for your presence here today and expressing the hope that we will see you and many others from other Asian Countries not represented here or for that matter in past Asian Cycling Championships in the 5th Asian Cycling Championships in Singapore next year.

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