

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC/MAR/32/71(IST/MJA)

Speech by Mrs. E.H. Sheares at the 1971 First Appeals
Committee Meeting of the Red Cross at the Istana
on Wednesday, 24th March, 1971 at 5.00 p.m.

I am pleased to see so many friends present here this evening attending the First Meeting of the Red Cross Appeals Committee for the year 1971. I welcome you and thank you for coming forward to support a worthy cause.

It has often been said that in the quest for economic progress and a good life, one may become pre-occupied with self advancement leaving no time for others. Your presence here today serves to show that this is not true and that there are lots of people who do care. The thousands of volunteers in the Singapore Red Cross Society, coming from the humblest to the highest stations of society, also serve to remind us that we are a people who do care for each other.

I have learnt with interest the good work done by the Singapore Red Cross Society both within our Republic and beyond. The prompt action of the Society in buying and sending supplies to East Pakistan recently has relieved some of the suffering among the cyclone victims. The Society plays a very important role in disaster relief operations in the Asian and Pacific Region. The welfare work and activities of the Society in Singapore which include the care of physically handicapped children, the welfare of the old, the ministering to the sick, the provision of first aid services and the training of the young are well-known to all of us.

To maintain these activities and services, the Society needs money. It is precisely for this purpose that we are meeting here this evening. I am happy to announce that Mrs. Sin Kee Boon has again very ^{kindly} agreed to be the Chairman of the Appeals Committee for this year. She was very successful last year. I have no doubt that with her leadership, good planning, the help of willing workers and your unshelchanted co-operation she will raise the necessary funds the Society needs to carry on its activities and services.

The formal business of the meeting will now begin and I invite Mrs. Sin to take the Chair. Thank you.

Date: 24th March, 1971.

Time Issued: 1000 Hours.