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SPEECH BY THE FIRST LADY, MRS. B.H. SHEARES, AT THE SINGAPORE SOGOTSU ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT THE N.T.U.C. CONFERENCE HALL ON 2ND SEPTEMBER, 1971 AT 5.30 P.M.

I am happy to be here this evening to open the Singapore Sogotsu Association Exhibition of Flower Arrangement. The Singapore Sogotsu Association was founded in 1950 by Mrs. K. Kim, its President. It was established as a Chapter of the Sogotsu School in Tokyo by Miss Ogawa in 1966. Since its inception the membership has grown steadily and today, there are nearly 200 Ordinary and Associate members actively participating in the Association's many functions. The frequent social gatherings and the smaller Exhibitions of Flower Arrangements bring members of all nationalities together for an exchange of ideas and sharing of experiences in a friendly atmosphere.

The Association is most fortunate to have as its President Mrs. K. Kim, a foremost exponent of the Sogotsu style of Ikebana. She has kept the members abreast of change in styles by her visits to Japan twice a year to participate in the large exhibitions in Tokyo and acquaint herself with the latest trends in design and materials.

This year the Exhibition will be held for four days instead of the usual three. It provides an opportunity for more members of the public to come and see how living could be made more gracious by the artistic beauty of flower arrangements.

It is indeed gratifying to see that the skills and expertise in the art of flower arrangement which the members have acquired, have brought not only joy and satisfaction to the members themselves but also cheer to the less fortunate. The entire proceeds of this Exhibition will be donated to the Spastic Children's Association, the Retarded Children's Association, the Singapore Association for the Deaf, the Singapore Children's Society, St. Andrew's Mission Hospital and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

I wish to congratulate the President, Mrs. Kim and the members of her Committee for organising this Exhibition.

Now it is my pleasure to declare this Exhibition open and wish it every success.