

MC:ROV/17/71(ISTANA)

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

SPEECH BY THE FIRST LADY AT THE ISTANA ON THE OCCASION
OF THE LAUNCHING OF THE DONATION DRAW FOR THE CHILDREN'S
CHARITIES ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER, 1971 AT 4.00 P.M.

I bid you a very warm welcome to this Tea Reception. We meet today as a band of fellow-workers, bound together with a common desire to serve the social needs of our people. Your attendance at this Launching of the Donation Draw for the Children's Charities, in response to my invitation, is a clear demonstration of your willingness to serve this worthy cause.

To a great extent activities, such as the Donation Draw today, are indicative of the growth of the children's Charities. It is worthy of note that the Children's Charities is more than an organisation - it is a living organism, where old cells are continually being replaced by new ones. This is as it should be. With the reduction in the number of Commonwealth Forces in Singapore, many of our "old faithfuls" have to leave us. I am very glad to see their places are gradually being taken up by our own Singapore Armed Forces. It is my sincere hope that this excellent example will encourage more S.A.F. personnel and their wives to give of their time and energy to serve the social needs of our society.

Another sign of growth is reflected by the fact that in 1971, the four original member organisations of the Children's Charities, namely, the Spastic Children's Association, Singapore Association for the Deaf, Singapore Children's Society and the Singapore Association for Retarded Children, are now joined by a new member: the St. Andrew's Mission Hospital. This wider participation creates a greater challenge and a better opportunity in the realm of our service. In this way, there is a greater number of children in the Republic who will directly benefit from the fruits of our labour.

The Donation Draw is the biggest fund-raising project of the Children's Charities of the year. For this year, we have set for ourselves to achieve a record target of \$200,000. This target reflects on the one hand increased needs of our growing member societies, and on the other it shows our confidence that the people of Singapore are both willing and able to meet this growing responsibility and challenge.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the Chairman, Mr. Francis Thomas and his Committee for another very successful year, the Spastic Children's Association for organising the Donation Draw, Mr. Kon Yuen Kong for giving his valuable time to serve as Treasurer of the Donation Draw, and my heartfelt thanks to all of you who are here today to help launch the Donation Draw. Your efforts in getting many valuable prizes for this year's Donation Draw are very much appreciated. Without your hard work, it would not be possible to secure such good prizes. I must remind you that the best is yet to be; much more hard work is expected of you, to sell 200,000 tickets. You all have a brilliant record of service in the past; let us keep our flag flying, and give of our best for the well-being of the under-privileged children of our society.

To the members of the public, I should like to stress that the proceeds of this Donation Draw will go towards the relief and maintenance of our less fortunate children. By your generous and selfless support in buying up the tickets for the Donation Draw, you are convincing these children that they have so many godfathers and foster-fathers who care for them.

Now it gives me great pleasure to launch this 1971 Donation Draw, and wish it every success.

DATE: 10th November, 1971.

Time Issued: 1400 Hours.