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Speech by the Acting President at the Annual
Dinner of the Orchid Society of S.E. Asia at
Shangri-la Hotel on 28.11.71 at 7.30 p.m.

It is a great pleasure for me to be present at this Annual Dinner of the Orchid Society of South-East Asia. I am glad to note the achievements of your society and the part it has played in promoting interest among the people of Singapore in growing orchids. Today, more than ever before, horticulture plays an important role in our country. In our increasingly urbanised and industrialised society, we are facing problems of air, water and noise pollutions. Strong and urgent measures must be taken now to combat this menace. One of the many measures taken by the Government to prevent our fair island from becoming a city of concrete jungles is to grow plants and greenery on a large scale. This is not only for the purpose of beautifying the city, but also for the promotion of a healthier environment.

I urge all the horticultural societies in Singapore, including the Orchid Society of South-East Asia, to contribute towards and participate in Government's efforts in achieving this purpose for the benefit of our people and our country. Whether it is the planting of a Dendrobium orchid, a Bougainvillea plant, a Rambutan sapling or a mangrove branch, it all helps towards making a greener and healthier Singapore.

In conclusion, I thank the President and Members of the Orchid Society for inviting me to this very enjoyable function. At the same time, my congratulations to the President and his committed members for the fine work they are doing in the promotion of horticulture in our Republic.

Date: 25.11.71.