

9/11

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SPEECH BY THE FIRST LADY, MRS. E.H. SHEARES,
DECLARING OPEN THE 1971 CHRISTMAS FAIR AT
VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL ON SATURDAY, 4TH DECEMBER,
1971 AT 10.00 A.M.

The withdrawal of the British Forces presents a challenge to the people of Singapore, particularly the women, to come forward and fill the places previously occupied by the wives of British Forces in the various organisations. I am happy and proud to note that the people of Singapore responded willingly to this challenge as is evidenced by their active participation in the many welfare and charitable organisations in Singapore.

This Christmas Fair is certainly an excellent example of the achievements that can be obtained through self help and co-operative effort. Many people have worked very hard during the past few months to make this Christmas Fair possible. Numerous functions preceded this Fair and it is most heartening to hear that the organisers of these functions included the wives of diplomats. The Christmas Fair Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Seow Peck Long, the various Sub-Committees, the supporters and helpers are to be congratulated for a job well done. Members of the five benefiting institutions will, I am sure, be very grateful to all concerned in this continuous campaign to make more bearable the lives of those amongst us who are less fortunate, underprivileged and handicapped.

It is my personal hope that welfare work will continue to grow in strength, in area and in results and that even more local people will come forward with their services for the needy. I believe that there are still many people who can and are in a position to make valuable contributions towards welfare work. To them I say "Come and help us."

It is now my very pleasant task to declare this 1971 Christmas Fair open and to wish it every success.

DATED: DECEMBER 3, 1971.

TIME ISSUED: 1630 HOURS.

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