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SPEECH BY THE FIRST LADY, MRS. B.R. SHEARES, AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SINGAPORE RED CROSS SOCIETY AT RED CROSS HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER 1972 AT 5.30 P.M.

It is my pleasant task this evening to review the events of another successful year for the Singapore Red Cross Society.

The extension to Red Cross House was completed in 1971, and this has provided valuable space for the expansion of the society's activities.

Your reputation as a dynamic society, continues to attract dedicated people into your ranks, especially from amongst the youth of Singapore. As Singaporeans we believe that every child should enjoy the blessing of a healthy and happy family life, and develop those finer qualities of self reliance and compassion for their fellow men. I am proud that the Red Cross, through its concept of voluntary service, strives to nurture these qualities in our young people.

Members of the society will be pleased to note that early this year a hostel for handicapped workers was opened in Jurong Town. I wish to appeal to employers in Jurong to give these handicapped workers a chance to prove their ability, and thereby make a useful contribution to the community.

Your annual report shows that the demands on your public services such as the Red Cross Clinic, the ambulance service, life guard service, blood donor recruitment, the old people's club, hospital library service, hospital after-care and transport service and several other small services, have all increased.

No matter how strong the human incentive, all these public services also require money to function adequately. In this regard, I wish to congratulate Mrs. Sim Kee Boon who, as chairman of your appeals committee for 1971, collected a sum of \$229,000/-. In this effort, she had the help of Mrs. Goh Kee Seng and Miss Nina Hillai who helped to organise the Silm premiere and the Sun Fair. To all of them and their committees the society expresses its appreciation.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the executive committee, and the various departments of the Society, and wish you success in all your endeavour.

Ladies and gentlemen, I now declare the annual general meeting open, and request the chairman to conduct the proceedings.

DATE: 22ND NOVEMBER, 1972.