

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, MR HON SUI SEN, AT THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF PLAZA SINGAPURA ON SATURDAY, 16TH AUG
1975 AT 5.00 P.M.

Research on persons visiting Singapore has indicated that a major appeal of Singapore for tourists is the availability of good shopping. Tourists are attracted not only by bargains but also by the wide choice in the range and quality of goods displayed in Singapore stores.

The opening of Plaza Singapura should therefore be welcomed by them. Conveniently located in the traditional tourist beat in Orchard Road midway between its hotels, night clubs and entertainment centres, and the civic and office areas of the Central Business District, it will further enhance the many shopping attractions for tourists in Singapore. With, I am told, an enclosed rentable area of about 43,500 sq metres, it should now be Singapore's largest shopping centre.

I believe that it will be a shopping centre which caters also for the many needs of local residents. I am glad that the Development Bank of Singapore has been able to keep to its original concept for this project, which it planned for development not as a monolithic air-conditioned concrete mass, but a centre with a shopping environment that is restful, yet alive - one where the shopper can take his family and safely spend many pleasurable hours in wide courtyards and overhanging open walk-ways among a great variety of shops. This imaginative response to the growing demand among us all for a modern, yet gracious, city is an excellent example of thoughtful private sector enterprise and will I am sure be increasingly emulated by other developers.

I now take great pleasure in declaring open Plaza Singapura.