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PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY MR WAN HUSSIN ZOOHRI, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(HEALTH AND CULTURE), AT THE CHEQUE PRESENTATION
CEREMONY ON WED 24 AUG 83 AT 3.00 P.M. AT THE INFORMATION
DIVISION CONFERENCE ROOM

This year's Drama Festival, the sixth in the series, promises drama enthusiasts a feast of 33 performances by 19 local drama groups from 10 Sep to 19 Nov 83, a scale unmatched by previous Festivals. This has been made possible by the generous contribution of \$80,000 by the Shell Group of Companies in Singapore who are sponsoring the Festival for the third year running. The continuing support of Shell towards the Drama Festival attests to their corporate interest in and the promotion of the arts in Singapore, and this support, I must add, is deeply valued by the Government and the public in general.

This year, the Ministry of Culture will cease to award the Best Performance Award (Male and Female) in response to public requests. Only the Best Production Award will be given for each language category in recognition of team effort rather than individual achievements.

The highlight of the Festival is the staging of the prize-winning play in the Chinese Section of the 1982 Playwriting Competition organised by the Ministry of Culture. This will be a good start to encourage production of local plays. Hopefully, more prize-winning plays of the Annual Playwriting Competition will be staged at each successive Drama Festival so that in time to come, the Festival will become a show case of good local plays.

On behalf of the Ministry of Culture and all the participating drama groups, I thank Shell for their generous contribution of \$80,000 towards the Festival.
