

# Singapore Government **PRESS RELEASE**

Information Division, Ministry of Culture, City Hall, Singapore 0617 • tel: 3378191 ext 352, 353, 354/3362207/3362271

Archives & Oral History Department  
Singapore - 4 JUL 1981

02-2/81/07/24

Acc. No.

NARC

81 0033 29

SPEECH BY MR LEE KHOON CHOY, SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE (PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE) AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATION AT THE GAY WORLD STADIUM ON FRIDAY, 24 JULY 1981 AT 8.05 PM

This Martial Arts Demonstration put up by the Singapore Martial Arts Instructors' Association is the first of its kind ever held in Singapore. You will find the Chinese kung-fu fighting the tae-kwon do, or the judo fighting the hap-kee-do or the kung-fu fighting the bersilat. It is free for all and you are allowed to use whatever method of fighting so long as you are within the rules. This Association has so far attracted a membership of some 150 instructors from the various streams of pugilism. This is the first performance organised by the Association since its inception a little over a year ago.

In Singapore today, there are the various streams of pugilism, some originated from China, others from Japan and Korea and also local bersilat. We have succeeded in bringing the Chinese kung-fu under one roof, and we have also succeeded in combining the basic steps of the Chinese pugilism into the Singapore steps ( ). I am glad to learn that one main objective of forming the Singapore Martial Arts Instructors' Association is to bring pugilists of the various martial arts together in the hope that there will be cross-fertilization of ideas and skills amongst them. The prevailing attitude among pugilists in Singapore is to learn and practise only one form of martial arts. There are even those who would only learn from one particular teacher, particularly among the Chinese pugilists, thinking that it is the best. Apart from that, it was generally considered improper if one were to learn from another teacher who in the past may disown him. This narrow mentality has blinded many pugilists from learning other forms of martial arts which have other advantages in pugilism.

...../2.

The Singapore Martial Arts Instructors' Association has the advantage of all the major streams of pugilism working under one roof. Through working together, each would know the strength and weakness of his form of pugilism. By constant practice and research, they should see a synthesis of several forms of martial arts taking place or an evolution of a new form of martial art - a hybrid which we can call our own. I am confident that in the not too distant future, we shall witness new forms of pugilism being performed at a demonstration like this. On this note, I declare the first martial arts demonstration open.

-----