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SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT. TTS/INFS. AP.12/58

SPEECH BY THE CHIEF MINISTER, MR. LIM YEW HOCK, AT THE OPENING OF THE WORLD HEALTH DAY EXHIBITION AT SIMS AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 10 A.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1958.

Today in Singapore we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the birth of the World Health Organisation which is a specialised agency of the United Nations. The theme for the year is "Ten Years of Health Progress," and here in Singapore, by holding exhibitions in nine centres, we are attempting to demonstrate what has been achieved during the past 10 years and what yet awaits us for the future.

Health has been defined by the World Health Organisation as "a state of physical, mental and social well-being," and not just absence of disease. This, you will realise, is a concept which goes far beyond classical concepts of health. It embraces within its attention not only to the physique of the individual, but also his attainments, his intelligence, his aptitudes, his interests, his disposition and his environment. The road which lies ahead is beset with obstacles. We must have freedom from want, disease, ignorance, idleness and squalor. The achievement of such a state becomes the duty not only of a single department or a single ministry, but many other departments or ministries, such as education, labour and welfare - and, above all, it becomes the business of every person in this land whose active participation is not merely desirable, but is indeed essential.

We in Singapore have during the last ten years made much progress in this direction. The Minister for Health will be making a broadcast speech tonight giving you some idea of what has been achieved in Singapore. I do not, therefore, wish to anticipate him. As I said before, you will in these exhibitions see evidence of what has been achieved.

I must, however, not miss the opportunity of acknowledging the very important contributions the World Health Organisation has been making, not merely on a global pattern for the conquest of disease and promotion of health, but also the direct benefits that have accrued to Singapore as a result of their co-operation and assistance. Our many training institutions and indeed the Department of Social Medicine and Public Health of the University of Malaya who prepare students also for the diploma of Public Health, could not have been promoted expeditiously and well but for the generous and prompt help given by the World Health Organisation. They have provided us with experts and are still continuing to give us considerable help.

You may wonder what indeed is the World Health Organisation. The World Health Organisation is a specialised agency of the United Nations, and represents the culmination of efforts to establish a single inter-governmental health agency.

The scope of W.H.O.'s interests and activities exceeds that of any previous international health organisation and includes programmes relating to a wide variety of public health matters. In addition, W.H.O. undertakes or participates in certain technical work of international significance, the exchange of scientific information, the drawing-up of international sanitary regulations and the revision of the international list of diseases and causes of death.

I am sure you will study these exhibits carefully and take pride in man's achievement and progress in the fight against disease and ill-health. It is now my pleasant duty to declare this exhibition open.

APRIL 7, 1958. (Time issued at 1700 hours)

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