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**SPEECH BY MR ONG TENG CHEONG, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,
AT THE GOTTEX GALA DINNER HELD ON 6 MARCH 1992, 8.00 PM,
AT HYATT REGENCY HOTEL**

My wife and I are delighted to be present at this evening's function to view the collection of leisure-wear and swimwear bearing the orchid motif, by Gottex. I mooted and promoted the idea of using the orchid motif in fashion design some three years ago. The aim was to spur our designers to create fashions with a unique Singapore identity. I am no fashion designer although I used to design buildings. I am glad that the orchid motif idea is catching on. I hope the orchid motif will grace more fashion wear. I am also pleased to learn that proceeds from tonight's dinner will go towards a very worthy cause ie the University Endowment Fund.

The University Endowment Fund will help our universities to establish themselves as major centres of research and innovation. The fund will provide greater opportunities for intellectual pursuits for our brightest students. It will help us keep in touch with the frontier of knowledge and technology and enhance the reputation and standing of our universities. It will also benefit the community at large, particularly our business community, to have a larger pool of qualified talents. It is therefore, everybody's business, including that of the government, the individuals and corporate citizens to chip in. We should promote the tradition of public support towards higher education.

I would like to commend Gottex for being one of the first to raise funds for the University Endowment Fund. I am delighted that the orchid motif design is gracing the fashion scene in swimwear and leisure-wear.

So, let's sit back and enjoy the evening.

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