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**SPEECH BY MR YEO CHEOW TONG, MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND
MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AT THE LAUNCH OF
THE 17TH SOUTH EAST ASIAN (SEA) GAMES
TORCH RELAY PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN
AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM THEATRETTE
ON MONDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 1992 AT 5.00 PM**

First of all, I would like to thank each and everyone of you for taking time off your busy schedule to be here today. Today, we launch the Torch Relay Publicity Campaign leading up to the 17th SEA Games.

Singapore has been given the honour to host the 17th South East Asian (SEA) Games next June. But the hosts for the 17th Singapore SEA Games will not just be the Singapore National Olympic Council or the Singapore Sports Council. All Singaporeans are also hosts for this important sporting event.

A well organized 17th SEA Games will reflect well on Singapore and all Singaporeans. At the Games, many records will be broken, and many exciting moments will be captured on camera. But more importantly, I hope many bonds of friendships will also be forged. We must therefore go that extra mile to make the 4,500 participants and officials who will be coming to Singapore next June feel at home.

Many resources are needed to make the Games a successful one. We need up-to-date sports facilities and equipment. We need sponsors. And we need volunteers to help out in various facets of the Games. In the last SEA Games at Manila, over 20,000 volunteers were mobilised. Volunteers helped out in many areas, from fund raising to first aid to showing the visitors around town.

One of the highlights of the 17th Games will be the 500 kilometre, 48 hour Torch Relay preceding the Grand Opening Ceremony on 12th June 1993. The route of the Torch Relay has been designed to cover all 81 constituencies, thus bringing a part of the Games to the doorsteps of all Singaporeans. We aim

to have mass participation in this Torch Relay. By the time the Torch Relay ends, we hope to have over 50,000 Singaporeans involved in passing the Torch throughout the entire route. I hope as many Singaporeans as possible will participate in this Torch Relay, so that we can all give the 17th SEA Games a rousing start.

As successful grassroots leaders, you have the ability to reach out to the people and mobilise them to support the Games. I hope that you will mobilise the residents in your respective constituencies to support the Torch Run. You can organize contingents of runners to run with the runners, as well as other sporting activities in conjunction with the Torch Relay. This will promote the Healthy Lifestyle campaign at the same time.

Private sector organizations, civic organizations and other community organizations will be encouraged to participate in the Torch Relay.

I look forward to your strong support for this Torch Relay. Without your support, we will not be able to stage the Torch Relay in all 81 constituencies. Without your support, the run-up to the Opening Ceremony at the National Stadium will not be the same.

With that, it is my pleasure now to call on the members of the Torch Relay Sub-Committee to brief you on the details of the Torch Relay Run.

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Cc: INFORMATION5 (8812:GVT224)
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