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SPEECH BY BRIG-GEN (RES) GEORGE YONG-BOON YEO, MINISTER OF STATE (FINANCE) AND (FOREIGN AFFAIRS), AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE KAMPONG KEMBANGAN COMMUNITY CENTRE ON SUNDAY, 8 OCTOBER 1989 AT 8 PM

It took many years to build this new CC. Without the hard work and generosity of so many people, we will not be here tonight to declare open this splendid new building. But, as they say, 'getting there is half the fun'. Because we have all worked so hard together for so many years, a certain camaraderie has developed, a spirit of solidarity which is far more valuable than the building itself. You can destroy the building but you cannot destroy the spirit. So long as the spirit is strong, the building can always be put up again.

This is an important point for us all to remember. Our objective is to build a strong community, a community with a strong spirit. Our objective is not to generate activities for its own sake. That's pointless. What we want are activities which bring together old and young, men and women, people of all races, people from all walks of life. Then we will have a strong community. Then we will have a strong Singapore.

There must be a personal touch in the way the CC is organized. Those who come to the CC should not feel as if they are strangers in a shopping complex, that they come just to use the squash courts or to buy doughnuts. That

will be cold and impersonal. No, the CC should be a kind of club, where members know one another, enjoy each other's company, have fun together.

We are halfway there. We already have the spirit. We should build upon that spirit and make Kampong Kembangan an even stronger community.

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