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Address by Director, Joint Operations and Planning Directorate, and Chief of Staff - General Staff, Brigadier-General Lam Joon Khoi, and Guest-of-Honor, at the Opening Ceremony of the 6th Asean Armies Rifle Meet

11 Oct 1996

LTC Jumaat, Deputy Commander, Royal Brunei Land Forces, MG Ismed, Commander 1st Division, KOSTRAD, Indonesian National Army, LTG Ismail, Deputy Chief of Army, Malaysian Army BG Parrenas, Assistant Division Commander, 3rd Infantry Division, Philippine Army LTG Charn, Chief of Staff, Royal Thai Army, distinguished guests and participants of the 6th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet 1996, a very good morning to you.

Let me begin by welcoming all of you to Singapore. I hope you had a pleasant stay so far and have by now been comfortably settled in. On our part we will do all we can to make your stay in Singapore a most memorable one.

Singapore, and more specifically the Singapore Armed Forces, is honoured to host this year's competition. This year's event is the last of the current series of rifle meets. Since the inauguration of the 1st AARM in Malaysia in 1991 and the subsequent rifle meets; in Indonesia in 1992, Brunei in 1993, Thailand in 1994; and the Philippines last year: the ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet has risen to be the most prestigious military event in the calendar of our respective armies.

The objectives of the AARM, like in all previous meets, are to allow the respective armies to compete and match their shooting skills in friendly competition. For the ASEAN armies, the AARM is an opportunity for the exchange of professional expertise in military skills as well as professional and social interaction among members of the ASEAN armies. Besides strengthening the bond and comradeship among our armies, the AARM also contributes to greater understanding and stability in the region.

In previous rifle meets, besides seeing an improvement in shooting skills, the friendship and camaraderie among our armies have also been enhanced. I am confident that at this AARM, we will also see these relationship being manifested and indeed strengthened.

I believe every participant in this year's meet is well trained and prepared for the occasion. The effort and preparation committed to doing one's best in the competition is commendable. However, let not the spirit of competitiveness overshadow the objective of fostering good relationship. Do your best and give the other participants the challenge that they desire, and at the end of the event, regardless of the result, we can congratulate each other for a keen and professional competition.

Let me conclude by thanking the Organising Committee for their effort in staging this opening ceremony and the exciting activities to follow. To the distinguished guests and friends from the ASEAN armies: I would like to say that I am appreciative of your presence this morning and add to the prestige of this event. To the participants: I am confident that your keen competition will elevate this rifle meet to greater height and I wish all of you the very best in your respective events. Thank you.

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