



SPEECH

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Speech by Mr Matthias Yao Chih, Minister Of State for Defence and Chairman, Accord, at the Accord Appointment Ceremony

30 Jun 1997

ACCORD was formed in 1984 to serve as a formal platform for the public to present its views on defence matters. It acts as a feedback channel for MINDEF to monitor more effectively the impact of its policies on the community.

Being a small country with no natural resources, Singapore remains politically and strategically vulnerable. Singaporeans must hold the conviction that our country is worth defending, and that the SAF can deter aggression and defend the sovereignty of Singapore. Singapore's continued success and survival depends on the community support for SAF's policies and efforts. ACCORD is an important link between MINDEF and the community.

ACCORD members are invited from among a wide cross-section of the Singapore community - from the business and the public sectors, institutions of higher learning, grassroots organisations and trade unions, and Members of Parliament. Each is well placed to assist MINDEF in communicating our defence policies and are able to provide valuable feedback. Over the years, ACCORD members have contributed much time and energy towards this effort. Without their help, our communication with the public would have been less satisfactory.

I take this opportunity to thank the retiring ACCORD members, LTC(NS) Robert Bong, Mr Lin Cheng Ton, Mrs Lim Chye Tin and Mr Tan Eng Beng for their active participation, valuable feedback and suggestions during their three years with the Council. Their comments and views were especially helpful during deliberations on the different challenges faced by MINDEF today. These range from manpower issues - such as the enhanced utilisation of

MINDEF's full-time national servicemen - to establishing better community relations, via the MINDEF Webservice on the internet.

I would also like to thank the 11 existing Council members for accepting my invitation to continue their services with ACCORD, despite their busy schedules and heavy commitments. They are :

Mr R Sinnakaruppan;

Mr Lim Jim Koon;

Mr James Lee Kim Wah;

Mr Peter Tan Sim Cheng, BBM;

Mr David Wong Chin Huat, BBM;

LTC(NS) Gay Chee Cheong;

Mr Tan Gek Suan;

Mr Ang Poh Siew, PBM;

Mrs Tang-Chan Yueh Tarn;

Mr K. Karthikeyan; and

Mr Zulkifli Bin Baharudin.

I am pleased to also welcome 3 new members to ACCORD:

LTC(NS) Johnny Lim (Managing Director, Remy Singapore Fine Wines and Spirits Pte Ltd);

Ms Leong Yop Pooi (Principal, Tanjong Katong Girls' School); and

Ms Lim Hua Yen (Director (Personnel Administration), Public Service Division, Prime Minister's Office)

I look forward to working with them to achieve better rapport between MINDEF and the community.

News Release:

- Platform for Public to Present Their Views on Defence Issues (MINDEF_199706300001.pdf)

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