

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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SPEECH BY MR. HO CHENG CHOON, PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARY TO MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF "SIXTH ANNUAL
VARSITY WORK CAMP" AT CHONG PANG VILLAGE,
ORGANISED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
STUDENTS' UNION ON 4TH MAY, 1966 AT 5.00 P.M.

I am glad to assemble here to-day with you, to open this Annual Work Camp. It is indeed heartening to note that the students have voluntarily come forward to undertake manual labour, in this instance, the repair of Chong Pang Road, thereby constituting yet another attempt to dispel the age-old conception that institutions of higher learning like the University of Singapore, are isolated from the main stream. Ours is essentially a world of incessant changes as many traditions are fast disintegrating and the students must be able to make the necessary adjustments in order to provide service to the country which maintains them. One way of achieving this would be to identify themselves as an integral and functioning part of the society. The Work Camp we witness to-day is therefore a step in the right direction.

One need not be reminded of the colonial era when the aims of the government were to inculcate among the young minds a sense of tacit acquiescence. However, the liquidation of colonialism demands a radical change in attitude and the students must orientate their outlook to suit new circumstances so that the large sums of money the Government spends annually to help run the Universities with the hope that there will emerge able and responsible leaders who can contribute most effectively in nation building, may be fruitfully invested.

Although the Work Camp will last for only a week, it is no so much the work but the gesture of goodwill and the urge to sacrifice one's pleasure towards ameliorating the lot of the rural people, which matters. You have set an excellent example by participating in this Work Camp and I hope more students will indulge in such activities in future.

I now have the pleasure to declare the Work Camp open.

MAY 4, 1966.
