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EMBARGOED TILL 9.30 A.M. ON SATURDAY, 8.6.68.

EXTRACT OF SPEECH BY INCHE SHAARI TADIN, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, AT A PROPHET MOHAMMAD'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, ORGANISED BY P.S.A. WORKERS ASSOCIATION AT NELSON ROAD, ON SATURDAY, 8TH JUNE, 1968 AT 9.30 A.M.

In his speech Incho Shaari advises the audience to follow the four behavioral characteristics of the Prophet: honesty, trustworthy, missionary and wisdom.

He urges all the Muslims in the Republic to identify themselves with the principles of Islam and as Singaporeans in order to face the modern challenges of the present world.

We should not look only to the western thinkers for appreciating our values for some of the values may not be ideal to our Singapore's needs. Islam is a universal religion which tolerated all the religion of the world and admitted all foregoing prophets.

Islam is not a hindrance to progress and the Muslims are encouraged to seek worldly progress by lawful means and to enjoy the good things of life without committing excesses and to seek knowledge. They must adjust themselves and their thinking from time to time as the need arises and the situation demands. They must discard any traditional conservatism which sometime conflicts with the teaching of Islam if they want to progress like the others. If only they understand the contents of the Kur'an thoroughly well and abide by its wisdom they will not be backward for Islam is not only a religion but a way of life. Islam encourages Muslims to have a multi-racial outlook as evident by this verse, which says: "We created you in different tribes so that you may know each other".

The Muslims must have high aspiration in life motivated by the spirit of industry and handwork of the people here and have new modern values and attitudes. They must not put too much emphasis on cultural values which resulted they become too cultural-conscious.

Earlier he says that some of the Malay Magazines and Newspapers are filled with too many sex stories, in some cases, phonographic in nature which can corrupt the mind our youth. This unhealthy state of affairs is not conducive if we were to develop the type of Singaporeans that we want/^{who} will be the pride of Singapore.