

PRESS RELEASE:

SPEECH BY INCHE MOHD. GHAZALI ISMAIL,
POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION, AT THE CHINESE NEW YEAR
AND HARI RAYA HAJI DINNER HELD BY THE
ALJUNIED, C.C.C. AND M.C. ON SATURDAY,
28.2.1970 AT 7.30 P.M. AT THE JOO SENG
COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON WHICH OCCASION THE
PRIME MINISTER IS THE GUEST-OF-HONOUR.

3

To-night is a very special and memorable occasion for us in the Aljunied Constituency. This occasion is to mark this year's Chinese New Year and Hari Raya Haji Celebrations and also to mark the presentation of cards to members of the Citizens' Consultative Committee and Management Committee. Our Guest-of-Honour is none other than Our beloved Prime Minister. It is indeed a great honour to the Constituents of Aljunied and to their elected Member of Parliament, that the Prime Minister has accepted our invitation to be the Guest-of-Honour and to give away the membership cards to those appointed in the C.C.C. and M.C.

Since the Prime Minister's last visit to this Constituency, Singapore has witnessed significant changes in the social, economic and political life of the people of our Republic. In 1963 we became part of Malaysia. In 1964 the political climate was hot with arguments centering round the Malaysian Malaysia concept. In August 1965, we were separated from Malaysia and Singapore became a sovereign state. Ever since, Singapore has never turned back even once in despair, or regret. "Forward!" has been our motto, though the advance has not been easily accomplished.

Decisions had to be made and quick ones too. They were made and implemented to plant in Singapore soil the then tender seedling of this Republic. Today we in Singapore have achieved to a considerable degree National Integration - a sense of loyalty to the Nation, a sense of loyalty that overrides all other Considerations. Our younger generation, by and large, no more tends to think in terms of being "Malay", "Chinese" or "Indian" but as Singaporeans - a new breed of Singaporeans, who may look like Chinese, Malay or Indians, but are orientated fully and completely to Singapore. This idea would have been laughed at by some, a decade ago. But today we have

achieved this. The degree of success in bringing about this national integration is the result of the political, social and economic policies formulated and pursued by our Government. National service has contributed to this. So has the urban development programmes, the extra-curricular activities carried out in schools, the successful organisation and running of the C.C.C. and M.C. under the guidance of the H.Q. of the People's Association, the mass campaigns and the mass participation which are a feature of Singapore life.

In this our own constituency there is greater mass participation in the affairs of the Government by all concerned - the C.C.C., the M.C., Businessmen, Principals, teachers and pupils of the schools and the Constituents in the area. All efforts are made to detect shortcomings and to rectify them at ground level itself. The citizens are becoming more and more aware of their responsibilities to the state and elected Government and there is less talk about privileges. The sense of belonging, of participation and the self-confidence in people are more noticeable than ever before. We are also aware that the present level of achievement has to be maintained and improved; the democratic system has to be upheld so that the base and edifice we build up today shall not be destroyed by political adventurers orientated to ideologies which are not suited to this region.

My constituents are equally aware that the present level of achievement and the climate of confidence that prevails in our Republic are the result of the dynamic, pragmatic, enthusiastic and enlightened leadership of you Mr. Prime Minister. Our tireless efforts towards nation building will continue unabated and we will educate our younger generation to rise to the occasion when their time comes, and we hope that Singapore will become the centre of socialist hopes throughout Asia and Africa.

Let us all rededicate ourselves to this task of nation-building - this unique experiment of moulding the diverse, migrant groups into one people with one destiny and one identity.
