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Speech by Dr. Lee Chiaw Meng, Parliamentary Secretary,  
Ministry of Education, at the Closing Ceremony of the  
2nd International Road Safety Conference Held at the  
Singapore Conference Hall on Thursday, 25th June, 1970  
at 12.00 noon

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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates, Ladies & Gentlemen,

To me has fallen the honour of bringing to a close a 5-day international conference on the several aspects of road safety. I have been impressed by the extremely valuable technical papers that have been contributed by several of you for the Conference. They form a most valuable contribution to world road safety literature and I am sure that the National Safety First Council of Singapore, the host organisation, will publish these technical papers together with the Conference Report so that those who are unable to come to this Conference will also be able to share your thoughts, your discussions and your plans. All those of you who have so ably presented their papers at this Conference will rest assured that your expertise and keenness have made an effective contribution to the standard of this Conference and that your presentations will be widely circulated in the Road Safety world.

As a result of this Conference, those of us in Singapore who are involved in road safety campaign will be constantly asking ourselves, "Even with the utilization of education, engineering and enforcement, can our road safety techniques keep pace with our swift expansion of road-users?" I believe that the question can be and must be an affirmative one. National Development puts road safety plans high up the priority list. It is the belief of all of us here that the basic goal of all road safety efforts is to prevent injuries and control loss. The result of these efforts is the self-discipline, courtesy, mutual respect and consideration displayed by the road-users. I would like to consider road safety is more than just a prevention of injuries, but is one of the many aspects of a much wider consideration - the maturity of a society.

From the deliberations of this most illuminating International Conference, it appears to me that the general consensus is that the law-abiding aspect of Road Safety is as important as the educational one. A nation that wants to advance economically,

politically and socially must have a disciplined and organised society. If we could help it, we do not want excessive road safety enactments, road laws and regulations, but a country that allows the people to flaunt the law, to consider personal right as a licence for indulgence and disrespect for others, is not going to build up a social discipline which is the foundation of all national and social stability.

I am glad to learn that the authority concerned is contemplating to introduce punitive and deterrent measures to complement the efforts of the National Safety First Council in their campaign and exhortation to road-users to exercise greater care and responsibility.

It is also encouraging to note that you have given considerable emphasis in road safety education. We in Singapore have paid much attention to safety education in our school curriculum and extra curricular activities. The fact that so many teachers concerned with safety in the schools are among the participants at this Conference is an indication of the importance the Ministry of Education pays to road safety.

At the close of one International Conference we plan for another. I have been informed that the 3rd International Road Safety Conference will be held next year at Sydney at the invitation of the Government and people of New South Wales. May this series of meetings of experts in road safety continue to grow in strength to the benefit of all participating countries.

A few days ago we welcomed you and now we bid you au revoir but in between the opening and closing ceremonies of this International Road Safety Conference, delegates and distinguished representatives have shared in this Conference Hall views that would have far-reaching effects on the philosophies and plans of national road safety organisations and governments of countries concerned. I wish to express my hope that distinguished delegates will convey to their respective countries on their return the good wishes of the Government and people of Singapore.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I declare the International Road Safety Conference 1970 closed.

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