

PRESS RELEASE.

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SPEECH BY INCHE MOHD. GHAZALI ISMAIL,
POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION, AT THE OUTRAM SECONDARY SCHOOL
17TH ANNUAL SPEECH DAY ON FRIDAY, 7.8.1970
AT 9.00 A.M.

Mr. Chairman, Principal, Students, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have looked forward to coming here today to see at close quarters a school which is the only one in Singapore providing Higher School Certificate Commercial classes.

Though we are pushing our industrialisation programme through with vigour, this does not mean that commerce will be shunted to the background. Our industrialisation programme will bog down if there is no link between our producers and the consumers whether they are to be found in Singapore or overseas. And this is where you come in.

If our integration programme is to succeed it is essential that our students should not restrict themselves to courses which are traditionally popular with members of their race. It is not enough to have the different races living and playing side by side. They should also be working side by side in their various occupations. Only then will they find themselves having so much in common as Singapore citizens that communal barriers are torn down. It is not a good idea to have the various racial groups segregating themselves by occupation in a multi-racial country. I am therefore pleased to note that some Malay students, for example, have taken up the challenge to learn management and commercial subjects in this school.

Government expenditure in education is high and the Ministry of Education welcomes any contribution from institutions, groups or individuals. These contributions have a twofold benefit. They ease the financial burdens of Government and they bring the community closer to the school. I congratulate the Havelock Constituency for its offer of a Scholarship, the Malay Chamber of Commerce for its two awards and Mr. David Chew, Chairman of the Advisory Committee for his donation of a gold medal.

Most of you would be leaving this school to go into National Service. There seems to be general acceptance now of the need for National Service. Every time cowardly elements set off explosions in Singapore it will only serve to underline how farsighted our leaders have been!. If this decade turns out to be the turbulent seventies for those of us in South East Asia at least we have made the necessary sacrifices to be prepared for it. *****