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Speech by Dr. Lee Chiaw Hong, Minister of State for Education, at the Passing-out Parade of the National Cadet Corps at Beach Road Camp at 5.00 p.m. Saturday, 3rd October, 1970

Let me begin by quoting the opening sentence of a famous Chinese Classic on the strategy of war by Suen Tze. I quote in Chinese: "兵者 國之大事 死生之地,存亡之道 不可不察也"

in which he emphasized the importance of defence as a matter of life and death and a matter of national survival. In a situation like ours where we are a young and small nation, we could not over-emphasize the importance of having a disciplined citizenry who is prepared to defend the freedom, independence, integrity and sovereignty of its nation. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that our youth should take pride in defending the country and their way of life. This is depicted in the badge of the National Cadet Corps whose motif is "Courage in Upholding the Ideal of Our Nation".

2. The enthusiastic response by the students towards the National Cadet Corps is an indication of the awareness of this fundamental truth of national survival by our students and our teachers. It is even more encouraging to note that so many of the teachers like yourselves have volunteered to undergo this intensive and vigorous military training to be officers for the Cadet Corps.

3. You in your dual capacities as teachers and officers in the National Cadet Corps have a greater influence over your students than most of your other colleagues in schools. The close contact you have with your cadets in school and outside school during training sessions and camps should serve as a very important means through which the students could identify themselves with a more mature and responsible group. This aspect should highlight all your endeavours as officers in the National Cadet Corps.

4. That you have responded to the call of duty, by volunteering for the course you have just successfully completed, augurs well for the Corps and the nation. You will agree that you have, in no small measure, benefitted from the course. I am sure that, besides having gained considerable military knowledge, you now feel physically fitter

and mentally more alert. May your fine example be emulated by your colleagues in school and I trust the training you have been given will be transmitted to your cadets in a manner which you know best.

5. The National Cadet Corps could not have reached its present strength of 18,000 members with 1,000 officers in so short a time without the dedication and hard work from all officers concerned. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to all officers of the Corps and to the Commanding Officer and Staff of the Maja Camp for their continuous assistance and support in this movement.

6. Finally, I would like to congratulate you, particularly those prize winners, for the successful completion of your 6 weeks training course, and on your smart turn up and fine performance this afternoon.

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