

EMBARGOED TILL 8.00 p.m. 18th NOV., 1970.

Speech by Mr. L. P. Rodrigo at the Vigilante Corps Judo Championship 1970 at the People's Association, on Wednesday, 18th November, 1970, at 8 p.m.

I am glad to be here tonight at this year's Vigilante Corps Judo Championship. Judo is one of the many forms of physical training which the Corps makes available to its members at the deployment phase of National Service in the Vigilante Corps. It is part of the larger requirement of physical expression in which members are disciplined.

The Vigilante Corps therefore keeps its members in a state of physical fitness after they have been taken through a rugged basic and post-basic training which condition new arrivals into responsive members of a disciplined uniformed organisation. The basic and post-basic training includes foot-drill, calisthenics, the obstacles course and unarmed combat amongst others. Concurrently, members are put through a course in good citizenship, given an understanding of society and its prerequisites of law and order and take part in community work. The fully trained and developed Vigilante Corps member is a disciplined and responsible citizen and ready to serve the country. When it is realised that he was just that man in the street on joining the Vigilante Corps, the measure of the value of the Corps will then be greatly appreciated.

I have decided to give this account of the Vigilante Corps on this occasion because of the recent letters in the press which held rather fogged and impatient views of the Corps.

But I am also taking this opportunity to announce the decision to form a Civil Defence Organisation within the Vigilante Corps. The Civil Defence Organisation will develop a capacity to meet the civil defence needs of a national emergency in the country, including a civil disaster. This calls for a structuring of the Civil Defence Organisation throughout the state to allow for a convenient mobilisation of its manpower to cope with such a contingency. There will also necessarily be a re-programming of instructions in the basic, post-basic and deployment training, to provide for training in the various aspects of civil defence. This however will not entail an increase in the hours of training attendance for the members of the Corps.

As a result of such changes, there will be greater opportunity for additional meaningful endeavour in the Vigilante Corps at both the officer and non-officer levels.

The Vigilante Corps as a non-military organisation is already a settled institution in our society. It takes in great numbers of our youth undergoing part-time National Service and conditions them for service to the nation. I hope there will soon emerge in the Vigilante Corps, as it does in settled institutions, the traditions of the Corps which will motivate its members to continuing achievement.

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