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SPEECH BY MR. S. DHANABALAN, SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE FOR
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AT THE BOYS' BRIGADE NATIONAL DAY
THANKSGIVING PARADE ON SATURDAY, 5 AUGUST '78,
AT 4.00 P.M., AT ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL

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I am very pleased to be here this afternoon to see the Boys' Brigade Parade and to present the prize winners with trophies in the various activities of the Boys' Brigade.

As the membership in the Boys' Brigade is for young boys and those in their teens, it becomes a great responsibility for the Boys' Brigade Organisation to see that the youth of today in the Brigade grow up happily and vigorously with the guidance of their officers.

I notice that your central aim is to create in boys the habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends toward true Christian manliness. These principles will help in the healthy development of body, mind and spirit. With this type of definite and explicit object, the members of the Boys' Brigade will develop into useful citizens of Singapore. This training in the Boys' Brigade should give them a better understanding of their relevance to society and therefore brings benefits not only to the individuals in the Boys' Brigade, but also blessings to the community in which they live.

But the community will only realise the benefits offered in the Boys' Brigade when it sees the training applied in specific projects. I know that the Boys' Brigade Organisation has trained its boys in social responsibilities as seen in its interest in various handicapped homes and even in blood donations. But there is a greater need for more concentrated and continuing efforts in such worthy civic projects so that the impact of the Boys' Brigade

on our society can be seen and experienced. I trust there will be a greater drive in this direction.

This afternoon's programme, both in the Church and in the Parade, is an indication of the commitment and loyalty of the Boys' Brigade to the nation. Keep on pressing with the objective of promoting the habits of obedience, reverence, discipline and self-respect -- not only among the boys in the Brigade, but with all those with whom you come in contact. I have quoted this before and I make no apologies for quoting this again. What better exhortation is there than Paul's to Timothy when he said "Let no one slight you because you are young, but make yourself an example ... in speech, and behaviour, in love, fidelity and purity."?

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