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92-AM-10

SPEECH BY DR AHMAD MATTAR, MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
AT THE "THANK YOU, SINGAPORE" EXHIBITION
HELD AT 'D' DIVISION (OPEN FIELD IN FRONT OF BLOCK 46-2,
COMMONWEALTH DRIVE) ON SUNDAY, 28 JUNE 1992 AT 10.15 AM

Everyday we are bombarded by news of civil strifes and violence in countries near and far. In Singapore, we are fortunate that this is not happening to us. Our ability to maintain stability in our society is the cornerstone of our continued economic growth. If we tamper with it, we run the risk of destroying the very fabric of our society and our nation. That is why we must always be vigilant in maintaining law and order in Singapore.

The responsibility of maintaining law and order does not rest with the Police alone. As members of the community, we too have a role to play. I am pleased to hear from the Police that members of the public have contributed significantly in helping the Police to lower crime rate in Singapore. For the period between 1990 and 1991, the crime rate in Singapore has dropped by three per cent.

Today's Exhibition is organised by the Police to thank all of you for your co-operation and assistance in crime prevention and road safety. It is also to recognise your support for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Crime Prevention Committees and the Police Boys Clubs, and your participation in the National Police Cadet Corps, the Volunteer Special Constabulary, and as reservists.

There are currently 95,000 Neighbourhood Watch Groups, with the number increasing every year. By participating in the Scheme, you have not only helped to deter crime by showing your care and concern for your neighbours, but you have also cultivated a sense of closeness in the community you live in.

I have also observed the success achieved by the Police Boys Clubs. Through the Clubs, our youngsters are encouraged to

take part in enriching activities instead of wasting their precious time hanging out in the streets and mixing with the wrong company. I hope to see more boys joining the Clubs. With your involvement in the Police Boys' Club, you can channel your energies towards making our community a better place for all.

I would like to make a special mention on members of the Volunteer Special Constabulary (VSCs). These noble citizens have voluntarily devoted some of their free time to help the Police keep Singaporeans safe. Besides police work, these volunteers also help in community service such as running the Police Boys' Clubs, and undertaking counselling for our youngsters. For their devotion and sacrifices, I, on behalf of the community, would like to express our gratitude and to urge them to keep up their good work.

No involvement is too small to contribute to a better Singapore. Even by putting a better lock in your door, you are helping the Police to prevent crime. The close and synergistic ties between the Police and members of the public have helped make Singapore a place we can all be proud of. However, we must not be complacent. Instead, we must work harder at sustaining the safe and stable society that we now have.

On behalf of the Police, I wish to thank all of you for your co-operation and assistance. I look forward to your continued efforts in making Singapore a safe and beautiful place to live in.

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Cc: INFORMATION5 (8812:GVT224)
From: INFORMATION5 (8812:GVT224)
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