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Subject: (Embargoed) Speech by Mr Harun Ghani , 3 Nov 99, 10.30 am

Singapore Government

PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY MR HARUN A GHANI, POLITICAL SECRETARY

TO THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AT THE

OPENING OF THE CRIME PREVENTION CAMP

ON WEDNESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 1999 AT 10.30AM

AT THE SCOUTS' ASSOCIATION SARIMBUN CAMPSITE

Mr Michael Yeo, Chairman,

National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Professor Yeo Jinn Fei, Chairman,
National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC)

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am happy to join all of you here today to launch this Crime Prevention Camp.

2 This is the first time the NCPC, the Police and the NPCC have come together to put up a crime prevention camp for students. Over the next two days, you will take part in many interesting activities. You will run an obstacle race, enjoy a campfire and hunt for treasure. You will learn more about crime prevention while having great fun.

3 The number of juveniles – youngsters between the age of seven and 15 - arrested for crime is going down. In the first nine months of 1998, almost 2,000 got into trouble. In the first nine months of this year, less than 1,200 juveniles were caught, mainly for theft and shoplifting. So the number has gone down 40 per cent. Although the number of juveniles arrested has declined, we can bring it down further.

Preventive education in schools

4 The NCPC and Police have taken many steps to make students aware of crime and how to prevent them.

5 For example, a set of Home Team workbooks entitled 'Safe and Secure. That's Our Singapore' is now being used at the Upper Primary and Lower Secondary classes. Among the topics in the workbooks are the dangers of drug abuse and the tough punishments that await criminals.

6 The NCPC's videos – 'Prison? Me? No Way!' and 'Girls Don't Go To

hag19991103a

Prison ' – show the tough life in prison and the serious consequences of crime. These videos are being screened in schools.

7 The NCPC and Police have also introduced a Crime Prevention Badge for students. This badge is awarded to uniformed group members who have successfully completed a written test, after taking part in crime prevention activities.

8 This year, the NCPC and Police also organised a crime prevention essay and logo design competition for secondary schools, Institutes of Technical Education, junior colleges and polytechnics. The competition attracted more than 300 entries. I take this opportunity to congratulate the winners of the crime prevention competition. I understand that many interesting ideas came up in the essays. I am pleased that NCPC and Police are working on how they can be used.

You play a part too

9 The NCPC and Police have worked together with schools to organise activities for you because they believe that students can play an important role in crime prevention.

10 You can help prevent your friends from mixing with bad company or doing something that is against the law. You can be a positive role model and help your friends stay away from crime. Maybe some amongst you will become good police officers in the future.

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11 Once again, I thank the organisers for putting together an interesting camp. I hope that all of you will thoroughly enjoy yourselves over the next two days.

12 Thank you.

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