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SPEECH BY MR HO CHENG CHOON, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT) FOR THE COMBINED GRADUATION PARADE
OF 40 REGULAR POLICE CONSTABLES, 42 YOUNG RECRUITS AND
467 FULLTIME POLICE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN ON THURSDAY,
7 JULY 1977 AT 1745 HOURS AT THE POLICE ACADEMY

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I am honoured to be here this evening to witness the Graduation Parade comprising 40 Regular Constables, 467 Fulltime Police National Servicemen and 42 young Recruits.

To those of you who are graduating today, this Graduation Parade marks the end of your basic training in the Police Academy, your real task will infact begin only after today when you are posted to the various Divisions and Units and have to perform your duties on your own. The training you have already received will put you in good stead in new situations. I have no doubt that you will eventually find your career both challenging and satisfying.

The Police is an honourable and respected profession. Besides the interesting nature of your job, there is ample scope for advancement to the Senior Officer grades for those of you who have chosen it as your career and are prepared to work hard. There is no short-cut to success which you can only attain through hardwork. You have to prove yourselves worthy of the enhanced status and responsibilities that will be placed on you as you progress in your career.

You are aware that in the fight against crimes, last year proved to be a very successful year. In 1974, overall sizable offences were 19,295 cases compared with 17,830 cases in 1976. The figure for major crimes dropped to its lowest in a decade. The credit for this must go to the Regular Police as well as the national servicemen in fulltime and part-time service. They have indeed done an excellent job. I hope that

you will /2.

you will emulate the fine example set by them. With active community involvement, the situation can be further improved. The fight against crimes is the responsibility of every citizen who must do his part instead of leaving it all to the Police. They must help themselves and the Police in crime prevention.

The rapid urbanisation has brought about new patterns in crimes particularly in high-rise flats. The crimes prevalently committed in high-rise flats include lift robberies and out-
raging modesty. New methods of crime prevention will have to be evolved. I am gratified to note that plans are being worked out to establish an anti-crime network throughout the Republic. This will not only involve the Police, fulltime national service men and recruits but must necessarily also involve the community at large. When these plans are implemented the crime situation will see further improvements.

I would also like to remind those of you who are graduating today that in carrying out your duties, you will come into direct contact with the public practically everyday. The public look up to you for protection which you must give readily at all times. In dealing with the public, always remember that they are people with feelings just like you. As law enforcement officers, you have to be firm but polite at the same time without being officious. In this way, you will earn the trust, confidence and respect of the public whose co-operation, needless to say, is important to the performance of your duties - more effectively.

The ultimate objective of all law-abiding citizens is a "crime-free" Singapore. This, we can achieve if the public and the Police help each other in the fight against criminals.

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