

Singapore Government

MEDIA RELEASE

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**SPEECH BY MR KHOO BOON HUI, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF STATE INSIGNIAS
TO THE 2ND BATCH OF OFFICERS
FROM THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE CONTINGENT
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION
IN EAST TIMOR (UNTAET)
ON 29 DEC 2000 AT 1700 HRS
AT THE POLICE ACADEMY GYMNASIUM**

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Minister for Home Affairs,
Minister Of State for Law & Home Affairs,
Political Secretary (Home Affairs),
Distinguished guests, colleagues, ladies & gentlemen,

Good Evening:

National Archives of Singapore

The UN-sanctioned International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) moved into East Timor on 20 September 1999, with a mandate to restore peace and stability. In January 2000, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) took over from the INTERFET, and began the process of preparing East Timor towards independence. As a show of our commitment towards the maintenance of international peace, the Singapore Government accepted the invitation of the United Nations to participate in UNTAET.

2 The Singapore Police Force sent its first contingent of 40 officers in

March this year to East Timor to serve under the UNTAET as UN Civilian Police Officers (CIVPOL). These 40 officers were deployed in the various districts of East Timor, and they undertook various policing roles in CIVPOL to help UNTAET in implementing its mandate of providing security, maintaining law and order, and establishing an administration of governance. Most notably, they played a critical role in helping CIVPOL to initiate community policing in East Timor. I am very pleased to report that our officers have performed very well in all their roles. In fact, some of them have done so well that they hold key supervisory positions, such as the Commander of Dili District, the capital of East Timor.

3 Apart from performing their assigned policing roles with distinction, our officers also embarked on many community-building projects. They were engaged in educating students on road safety, refurbishing orphanages, and piping water to over 2000 households. These efforts have won us many friends among the East Timorese, and are also being recognised by the international community. We are indeed proud that our officers have been able to contribute in these various ways in enhancing the lives of the East Timorese.

4 In 4 days' time, we will be sending the 2nd contingent to East Timor to take over from the 1st contingent. To the members of the 2nd contingent, I am confident you will continue to build upon the goodwill and esteem that have been painstakingly cultivated by the 1st contingent. They have set for you a challenging benchmark, but I believe you will be able to meet and even exceed it. You have been in training over the last 6 months for this mission and have proven yourselves to be capable and competent. You should also be excited with the prospects of interacting with the East Timorese and others in the international community, applying the policing knowledge you have acquired here to a different community. Rest assured that, while you are away, the SPF will do its utmost to help take care of your personal and family needs here in Singapore.

5 You are representing not only the SPF but also your family, and Singapore. I know that you will strive to do your best. The insignia that will be presented to you this evening by our Minister will serve to remind

you of all these, and inspire you to be the best you can be in East Timor.

6 On behalf of all the well-wishers here, I wish you every success in East Timor. Thank you.

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