

**SUMMARY OF SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER,**  
**MR. LEE KUAN YEW, AT THE 5TH NATIONAL DAY**  
**CELEBRATIONS HELD BY THE RESIDENTS OF THE**  
**RIVER VALLEY CONSTITUENCY AT THE RIVER**  
**VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 16TH AUGUST, 1970**

We have national servicemen sent off when they are first called up. Then we honour them in a special dinner after a period of training and on a suitable occasion. This is because we want to bring home to them the fact that the country has entrusted them with a solemn responsibility.

Whether we are shirkers or quitters, or stayers and fighters, will determine whether we live in peace or not. If people believe that we are stayers and fighters, we are more likely to live peacefully.

Next year I hope to see my own son in uniform present on such an occasion. Nobody who is fit and able-bodied can shirk what is a responsibility and an honour, to see that Singapore thrives and prosper, and is left undisturbed and at peace.

Change is an inevitable process of development. If you go to any country and find the same buildings, the same streets, only more dilapidated and with more potholes, that means there has not been progress. In Singapore, old buildings are giving way to new ones, old roads are broadened and new flyovers built. The community is becoming more comfortable, with the amenities of modern civilised living. We have something worth the defending.

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