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**SPEECH BY MR PHUA BAH LEE, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE COASTAL PATROL
CRAFT "SWIFT WARRIOR" AT SINGAPORE SHIPBUILDING AND
ENGINEERING LTD ON SUNDAY 8 JUNE 1980 AT 5.00 PM**

One of the peacetime roles of the Republic of Singapore Navy is to perform coastal surveillance, and patrol against the illegal entry of immigrants by sea. In addition, the RSN also conducts fishery patrols to protect our fishing vessels and interests. At present, this function is undertaken by our Patrol Craft and Missile Gun Boats. These are however fast strike craft and not intended for such patrol duties. A more efficient type of craft will be needed by the RSN to do the job cost-effectively.

Since 1976, MINDEF has been looking around for a small highspeed, low-cost patrol craft that could effectively fulfil this role of routine patrol and coastal surveillance. It should also possess the flexibility of being readily converted for naval defence operations should the situation demand this. Some of the governing characteristics of the type of craft required, are that it should be relatively cheap to acquire, easy to maintain, and manned by a small crew. The last is significant in view of the scarcity of manpower in the near future.

After a year of evaluation and study of various designs available, the RSN selected the design concept of a light-weight aluminium-hulled coastal patrol craft (CPC). RSN officers were actively involved in all stages of the development of the CPC, beginning from design, through evaluation to model testing. Besides meeting the governing characteristics of low acquisition cost, easy maintenance, and low manning requirements, the design also incorporates the flexibility for subsequent additions of suitable modern weapon systems.

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RSS Swift Warrior is the first of a series of 12 CPC's to be built by Singapore Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd. By the end of 1980, six of these craft are expected to be delivered to RSN. As these are newly designed craft, upon delivery, they will be operationally evaluated by the Navy, and if the performance meets the given requirement, it is quite likely that more of such craft will be constructed. It is hoped that the addition of these craft to the existing RSN fleet will likely enhance her operational effectiveness in fishery patrols and coastal surveillance.

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