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PRESS
STATEMENT

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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(44)
SPEECH BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR, SIR WILLIAM GOODE, AT
THE OPENING OF THE NEW SEA CADETS HEADQUARTERS AT
KALLANG, AT 5 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1958

This is the third time I have attended the opening of new headquarters for the Sea Cadet Corps, and I hope that this third time will prove lucky, and that your wanderings are now over and that you can look forward to a long period of steady progress in these new buildings.

These buildings have been provided for you by the taxpayers of Singapore, and I very much hope both that they will provide you with the facilities that you need, and that you will look after them in true Naval fashion, keeping them smart and tidy, a credit to the Sea Cadets, visible to the thousands of people of Singapore who pass along this busy highway.

And I hope that through these headquarters the people of Singapore will be reminded to Singapore's close dependence on the sea. For Singapore lives by the sea. Ships made Singapore what it is today and ships remain our life blood. If no ships came to Singapore, this great and thriving city would wither and decay, as it withered during the Japanese occupation. Ships give us all our living here.

Ships are no good without the men to man them; without the merchant seamen and the men of the Royal Navy to protect them on their lawful voyaging. Men who go to sea in ships need and develop special qualities of character: self-reliance, loyalty and comradeship, unselfish hard work in a common cause, courage to face danger and resourcefulness in emergencies, and humility before the awful might of wind and water. For nothing is so humbling or so hard a test of men's character than a gale at sea.

These qualities I hope you will learn to some extent as sea cadets, preparing yourselves for manhood whether you go to sea or stay ashore.

For the qualities that make a good sailor also make a good citizen. Men at sea serving together in a ship serve together in loyalty to each other and to their ship and in loyalty to their flag. So should all good citizens of Singapore serve together in loyalty to each other and to Singapore and in loyalty to the flag of Singapore, symbolic as it is of Singapore's loyalty to that greater confederation of free states, the British Commonwealth.

I congratulate you cadets for joining this Corps, for giving up so much of your spare time to learn the traditions and the spirit of the sea.

I am glad to have the opportunity to see you on parade. I congratulate you on your turn-out and on your enthusiasm; and I wish all of you and the Singapore Sea Cadet Corps every success for many years to come in these new headquarters.

You belong to a fine tradition: live up to it.

MARCH 26, 1958.

(Time issued 1900 hours).