

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT.

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SPEECH BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR, SIR WILLIAM GOODE,  
AT THE ROTARY INSTALLATION DINNER, CATHAY  
RESTAURANT, AT 9.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY,  
JUNE 25, 1958

On behalf of your guests I thank you for your hospitality to us this evening and I thank Mr. Thomson for his kind words of welcome.

This is the fifth Installation Dinner which I have had the pleasure of attending and as your Presidents have changed during these five years we have seen many changes in Singapore particularly in the political and constitutional field.

But there is no change in the objects of your Rotary Movement and no change in your continuing service to Singapore.

Now is there any reason to change the objects for which Rotary stands and works: good fellowship between all members of the community which you have achieved by bringing together at least once a week your 2,000 members each drawn from a different profession or occupation (though quite how you draw the lines which distinguish one profession from another is something that only Rotarians know) and your second object of community service: having broken down the barriers that separate individuals in a big city like this, you work together in the service of that city.

These objects have stood the test of time since the Rotary Movement was founded in 1905, 53 years ago, and they have stood the test of the past 28 years since the Rotary Club was founded here in 1930.

Your objects and your activities are outside political and constitutional changes and are just as valuable today as when the movement started.

It is a good thing for your guests that at least once a year we should be brought into the good fellowship of Rotary by attending your Installation Dinner. Not only for the pleasure of your company but that we may be reminded of the community service you do and of the spirit of good citizenship that lies behind it; so that we may leave here tonight not only dined, wine and entertained, but also inspired ourselves to try and make Singapore a better and happier place so far as in us lies.

You, Mr. President, will, I hope, shortly be telling us something about the work of the Singapore Rotary Club during the past year.

I know that this year your major community project was to help the Salvation Army find new accommodation for their Girls' Home and this task you have carried out contributing \$25,000 towards the purchase of new premises in Pasir Panjang.

So Rotary House at this Salvation Home joins the impressive

list of your achievements in recent years.

The Clinic at Tan Tock Seng;  
The School at the Trafalgar Home;  
The Village Hall and School at Ponggol (which I had  
the pleasure of opening three years ago);  
A similar Hall and School at Kampong Teban last year.

I particularly welcome the way in which you have extended your activities from projects in the City area to your continuing in these rural villages of Ponggol and Kampong Teban.

The value of what you do lies not only in the very real material contribution you make to the needs of others, but even more in your demonstration of what can be achieved by community effort, of the value of civic service and in building up a sense of corporate community existence - fostering the feeling that all who live in Singapore belong to one community. That all belong and that all can work together for the benefit of the whole community.

Nor does the tremendous expansion of the Government's education, health and social security services lessen the value of your community service. Rather the opposite. The Welfare State can so easily weaken the **spirit** of individual self-reliance and the recognition of the obligation of service to others. It can create an attitude of waiting for the State to do what needs doing, an attitude of demanding benefits as a right, whereas the healthy community must thrive by the energy and sense of service on each individual member as Rotary thrives by fellowship and service.

In these days we are establishing a new Singapore citizenship. Citizenship is not just a matter of registering names, chopping identity cards and getting a vote.

The real essence of citizenship is united loyalty to one's State and united effort to make that State peaceful, happy and prosperous. Anything that divides us is dangerous and in these days there are all too many tendencies to divide us. Anything that unites in good fellowship and common purpose is to be valued and whole-heartedly supported. And this is, as I understand it, the essential spirit of Rotary - to get to know your fellow citizen and to work with him in community service.

I congratulate you Mr. President on the success of the past year under your leadership. I know that the office of President is not an easy task. Tonight you can pass on your responsibilities to Mr. Ee Soon Howe in the knowledge of a job well done. On behalf of all your guests I wish you a successful year of office.

And again I thank you on behalf of all of us for inviting us to be your guests tonight.

JUNE 25, 1958.

(Time issued 1430 hours.)