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SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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SPEECH BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR, SIR WILLIAM
GOODE, AT THE INSPECTION OF THE S.R.N.V.R.
AT 5.45 P.M. ON TUESDAY, AUG. 26, 1958

I am very glad to have had the privilege of inspecting you this evening. I congratulate you all on your smartness, your efficiency, and your obvious enthusiasm. Let me add that they are what I expected, because I have so often seen you on parades and I know the tremendous high standard of drill and turn-out which you always achieve.

As I said on another naval occasion recently, I well remember H.M.S. Laburnum in the early years of the war, when you mobilised for active service, and from this basin kept safe the approaches to Singapore. And some of you on parade this evening served in those days.

Much has happened since then and now you carry on a splendid tradition of courageous service.

In congratulating you on your high standards of proficiency, let me express our appreciation for the constant help and encouragement you have had from the Royal Navy. In particular I would like to mention Admiral Thring, the last Flag Officer Malayan Area, who took the keenest interest in the well being and the future of the Singapore Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. In his last report to me he wrote that the bearing of officers and men of H.M.S. Laburnum was excellent, that the appearance of the ship and tenders had been maintained at a very high standard, and he commended your enthusiasm and efficiency. A report of which you can be proud.

But close as is your association with the Royal Navy and grateful as we are for the help we get from the Royal Navy, you are first and last a Singapore force. Your loyalty and your duty are to Singapore. And as Singapore sets forth to run her own self governing ship in these difficult days, your sense of service, your discipline, your steadiness in rough water, and your loyalty to Singapore become even more important.

I am glad to learn that the number of local officers is steadily increasing. This is right and proper. The defence forces of a self governing Singapore should be manned and led by Singaporeans. And I hope that more young men - and women - will come forward to join you.

The Royal Malayan Navy, which I have always regarded as an off-spring of H.M.S. Laburnum, has now grown up and left the family. Once again you carry the responsibility as Singapore's only naval force, a responsibility which I know you will meet with loyalty and determination. And I hope that before too long when money is not as tight as it is now, it may be possible to help you carry that responsibility by some expansion of your activities.

I cannot let this occasion pass without mentioning Captain Lammert, who commanded the Division for 10 years from 1948 and retired at the end of last year. It was during his long and devoted

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service that you reached your present high standards, and they are in great measure due to his hard work, his enthusiasm and his example. I am glad that he, and through him the whole Division, was recognised by the award of a C.B.E. in the New Year Honours List of Her Majesty The Queen.

He has a worthy successor in Captain Tufnell, I wish him - and you - equal success during his command. I hear that he has established the closest liaison with the Comptroller of Customs, and that you have distinguished yourselves in joint operations against smugglers. Well done.

I has been a real pleasure to me to come and see you this evening. I hope that when you get "Fanglima" back into commission, you will let me see you at sea, the proper place to sailors at work.

Meanwhile I wish you all the best of luck. Carry on with your good work.

August 26, 1958

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