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PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY DR WONG KMEI CHEONG, MINISTER OF STATE (LABOUR) AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CAIRNHILL AT THE CAIRNHILL CONSTITUENCY'S ANNUAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT HELD ON 20 JUNE 1981 AT 7.30 PM

Last week we had the opportunity of meeting together to witness our bird-singing contest. To-night, we assembled here to view the finals of our Ninth Basketball Tournament. And next week we will be mixing around with the swimmers. These sporting activities are deliberately organised by the Cairnhill Community Centre for people from all walks of life and all strata of society. We meet under a very informal atmosphere.

We know that for these events to be successfully launched, lots of time and effort have to be put into the planning. People have to come forward voluntarily and they have to work as a team. They expect no rewards. Their job and satisfaction are to see that the events have been well organised and the constituents benefitted from them.

I am therefore very heartened to note the encouraging response to this basketball tournament. There were eight men's teams and six women's teams. Participation came from SAF, SIA, SAF Reservists, Mountbatten and Cairnhill Community Centres.

I am confident that uppermost in the minds of the teams is the opportunity provided for them to pitch their skills and standard against their counterparts. Winning the trophy, though essential, is not the real intention. The teams competed to improve their performance and to make friends.

Members of the teams also know from their own experience that individual effort or skill, however excellent, can never make them champions. Each team member requires the support of other members in his team. The team also requires encouragement from their supporters.

In life we do not live alone. We live in a community and in this particular instance we live together in a constituency. We should therefore know one another better, interact more freely, help one another when necessary and in the process develop a sense of community spirit. It is this spirit of togetherness that ties a family, a sporting team, a factory, a constituency and indeed the Nation. We must therefore cultivate, nurture and treasure this team spirit. I am confident that if we consciously make attempts to make this spirit alive our future will be in good shape.

Finally, I wish the teams good luck and I hope our constituents had enjoyed the many evenings of entertainment and relaxation that this tournament had provided.

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