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Singapore Government

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SPEECH BY MR MATTHIAS YAO CHIH, MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE & PRESIDENT, SAFRA AT
THE

GALA PREMIERE OF "THE THIN RED LINE", AT

GV GRAND, GREAT WORLD CITY ON WEDNESDAY,

24 FEB 99 AT 7.00 PM

National Archives of Singapore

Mr Sunder Kimatrai,

Managing Director of 20th Century Fox Film,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very happy to join you this evening for the gala premiere of "The Thin Red Line". This World War II movie is particularly relevant to our National Servicemen. It highlights the importance of comradeship and teamwork. It underscores the need for a strong defence in securing peace and prosperity for a nation. And apart from the lessons it has for us, the movie is also critically acclaimed – with 7 nominations for Academy Awards. I am sure all of us here are eagerly looking forward to its screening in a few moments. On behalf of SAFRA and

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all our NSmen, I thank 20th Century Fox Film for this generous gesture in sponsoring this premiere in support of NSmen's role in national defence.

Beyond this film premiere, NSmen will be happy to learn that 20th Century Fox Film will continue to support SAFRA's efforts to enhance the social and recreational opportunities for themselves and their families. The obligation of National Service imposes much inconvenience on NSmen, and many sacrifices on their employers and families. But our NSmen take these in their stride. They understand that deterrence is the key to our security. To guard the peace that we enjoy, sacrifices must be made.

NSmen therefore take their training seriously. Having gone through years of preparation, they can use their weapons with accuracy and speed. In every mobilisation exercise, they report to camp at short notice – in uniform, complete with personal equipment. In every training session, they achieve their missions with focus, determination, and creativity. Our National Serviceman stand ready to deal with any threats facing Singapore.

With the appreciation and recognition shown by 20th Century Fox Film, and that from the many other corporate organisations in Singapore, our NSmen will surely be further inspired to give their best for Singapore. Your support will surely add strength and depth to the Total Defence of Singapore.

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