

Embargoed till after
delivery on Sunday
14 Dec 75 at 5 pm

SPEECH BY MR LIM GUAN HOO, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, AT THE CEREMONIAL PASSING-
OUT PARADE OF THE VIGILANTE CORPS 15TH INTAKE NATIONAL
SERVICEMEN AT THE POLICE ACADEMY ON SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER
1975 AT 5.00 PM

I am honoured this evening to officiate at the Passing-out Parade of the 15th Intake National Servicemen.

2 A series of activities were carried out by the Vigilante Corps during the past year. These include participation in the National Day decentralized Parades and displays, the National Day Military Tattoo Flash Cards display, the one-week intensive crime prevention operation in Queenstown, the VC Soccer Finals, the annuals games competitions and the Civil Defence display at the Marine Parade Housing Estate. All these have vividly reflected how the Corps has during the past decade evolved from a kind of militia force against subversive infiltrators into a 37,000 strong national service-cum-youth movement organisation with diversified roles to play in Civil Defence, Auxiliary Fire Service and Crime Prevention. There is no doubt that these added responsibilities and activities carried out by the Corps with successes have considerably boosted the morale of all members and enhanced the prestige of the Corps.

3 You have just completed your six months' Basic training which will stand you in good stead for deployment into your respective areas of service. Out of the 3,145 who graduated to-day, some 1,750 will be absorbed into the CSF in July 1976. The remaining 1,400 men will be selected to form sports, cultural and marine units. At a later stage, all of you will be re-deployed to play an important role in Civil Defence Service.

4 It is noteworthy to mention that the Community Security Force has grown from a 2,400-strong force since its inception in January 1974 to a law enforcement organisation of 6,610 men as in June this year. By the beginning of 1976, the strength will be further increased to 7,300. The force is expected to reach its target strength of 10,000 men in 1978 - two years ahead of schedule.

5 Spurred on by the modest success of the CSF, the VC has formed Anti-Drug Squads within the CSF to help curb the unhealthy trend of drug abuse. These Squads are presently operating in two of the most drug-prone areas. Plans are now in the offing to form more Anti-Drug Squads in 3 more areas next year. Eventually the intelligence gathering service of these squads will be extended to all Police Divisions, thus providing an island-wide network of anti-drug surveillance.

6 For the past 9 months, the CSF Anti-drug Squad has handled a total of 16 record-worthy cases. As a result, 6 persons were detained under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1973, another 6 persons were detained under Section 22 of the Minor Offences Act Chapter 102, 1 person was detained under the Immigration Act. In addition there were quite a number of specific cases of CSF personnel relaying valuable information to the CNB and the various Police Stations. These included information on 'known' or previously 'unknown' pushers whose descriptions and movements were noted.

7 The success of the Corps must primarily depend upon your individual performances. I hope you will rise to the challenge and help to build up a better public image in whatever service you may be channelled to. Only in this way will success be ensured.

8 I congratulate all of you on your splendid performance this evening. Special mention would have to be made of those who have been awarded certificates of merit for their high standards of work performance. Finally, I wish all of you success in your future endeavours.