

TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (HOME AFFAIRS), MR. LIM GUAN HOO, AT THE CEREMONIAL PASSING-OUT PARADE OF THE VIGILANTE CORPS 17TH INTAKE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN AT THE POLICE ACADEMY ON SUNDAY, DEC.19, 1976 AT 5 P.M.

I am honoured to officiate at this Passing-Out Parade of the 17th Intake. Comprising 600 National Servicemen, this is by far the largest contingent to participate in a VC passing-out parade. Among those who are passing out this evening are 200 senior leaders who will put in an additional six months' stint to undergo a more thorough and practical leadership training course in the Central Base. This longer period of training is intended to further develop the potentialities of leadership of the senior leaders so that they will become more effective and versatile in discharging their duties, when deployed for actual groundwork. Upon completion of the one year's course, the more outstanding ones will, in the first instance, be appointed Assistant Unit Leaders. Equal promotional opportunities are open for those who have leadership qualities and are hard working. I would, therefore, urge all of you to strive hard and do your utmost to make the grade.

The Vigilante Corps has lived up to its motto "From Each His Best". Recognition has to be accorded to those who make their fair share of contributions to the organisation, be it in the Deployment Service, Community Security Service, Civil Defence Service, Auxiliary Fire Service, or the Vigilante Service with Specialized Units such as Art Unit, Life-Guard Unit, Sports Unit, and Life Rescue Unit.

There is now a greater variety in the activities organised by the Corps. Members of the Corps with different interest inclinations have found themselves more adaptable to the diversified roles.

In the past one year, the activities organised included an Art Exhibition, a Cultural Concert, and a Civil Defence Display. Apart from participating in the National Day Parade and perform-

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crowd control duty, members of the Corps had also staged a Sea Carnival at the East Coast Lagoon. The VC Life-Guard Unit conducted a series of life-saving demonstrations at various public swimming pools, while its Cultural Unit presented a number of performances at public parks. There is no doubt that all these activities have helped to project a better public image of the Corps. To further enhance its image and provide a resume of national service in the VC, the Corps has planned to stage a massive flash card display and tatoo. This grand display entitled 'VC Today' will be held in January 1977 at the National Stadium. Some 10,000 VC national servicemen will be involved in this grand display.

The Community Security Force (CSF) which has done a fine job will be further expanded. Some of you who are passing out today will be absorbed into the CSF in July next year. The rest will be channelled into the Deployment Service or to serve in the Sports, Cultural and Marine Units. But eventually all will be re-deployed to play an important role in the Civil Defence Service.

The CSF Anti-Drug Squad, formed in September 1974, has grown both in strength and usefulness. Its main function is to work closely with the Central Narcotics Bureau to curb drug abuse and trafficking in drug-prone areas. Up to the end of September, the squad had dealt with 86 cases leading to 26 persons being charged in court. In eight other cases, a vast loot of drugs was seized. The haul includes MX pills, ganja, heroin and opium together with an assortment of drug utensils. This anti-drug battle will be stepped up.

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

DECEMBER 19, 1976.