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**SPEECH BY PRESIDENT ONG TENG CHEONG  
AT THE ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE BRIGADE  
PARADE-CUM-INVESTITURE  
ON SUNDAY 31 AUGUST 1997 AT 5.30 P.M.  
AT THE SERANGOON STADIUM**

I am pleased to join you this afternoon for your Annual Inspection and Parade.

For many years, the St John's Ambulance Brigade has been active in schools and among young people. It is one of the few uniformed groups in Singapore where young people can channel their boundless energy into useful service to the community. Through this process, they learn social responsibility, kindness and graciousness. In a society where both parents in many households are working, such organised activities for the young help mould our next generation.

Young members of the Brigade have been volunteering their services to underprivileged institutions and nursing homes, and participating in community programmes and campaigns. You are learning an important lesson in volunteerism, and of the duty of the able to help the less able. I hope that these lessons will remain with you for life.

I am happy to note that the Brigade has also added a series of badges to its proficiency badges scheme. These badges emphasise the importance of citizenship and knowledge of national heritage. This will be a new challenge for you to look forward to. It comes at no better time than when we as a nation are being encouraged to know our history and destiny.

Last but not least, let me congratulate all award recipients. Your contributions to society are recognised today. I urge you to continue to serve the nation and the community in the same way that you have so selflessly done for many years.

May I wish all Brigade members many greater achievements ahead as you uphold your motto to serve mankind and country, regardless of race, colour or creed.

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