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Singapore Government

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SPEECH BY MR HON SUI SEN, MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND
MP FOR HAVELOCK, AT THE 15TH NATIONAL DAY DINNER
PARTY OF THE HAVELOCK CONSTITUENTS AT THE HAVELOCK
COMMUNITY CENTRE AT MERCHANT ROAD, ON SATURDAY,
23 AUGUST 1980 AT 8.00 PM

I am glad to join all of you here this evening in celebrating our 15th National Day. As in the National Day programme for every year, a series of activities has been drawn up to instil in our citizens a sense of patriotism.

As the Chinese saying goes, everyone has a share of responsibility and stake in the destiny of the country. Only when every citizen gives of his best to strive for political stability and social prosperity can all of us live in peace and happiness. How, then, do we propose to press ahead towards this goal, to achieve continuing social progress and prosperity and increasing wealth and strength of the nation?

For the task of nation-building, we must first proceed with the psychological build-up, to bring about an ethical and moral uplift and the inculcation of desirable norms and values as this will promote the esprit de corps, peace and harmony throughout the various sectors of society. The strength of unity thus achieved will provide the basis for our nation-building.

How do we propose to bring about an ethical and moral uplift so that the spirit of mutual help and concern will prevail in society? At home, respect the elders and look after the young; in school, respect the teachers and value morality; in society, be always courteous to others and cherish the spirit of mutual help and concern. This is what is meant by "Extending our benevolence and kindness for our kith and kin to the people in general

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and, later, to all creatures in the Universe." We emphasize the strength of unity on the basis of mutual help and concern and peace so that our society will place a high premium on morality and the warmth of human feelings.

A nation-wide courtesy campaign has been launched. This is an important starting point for an ethical and moral uplift, leading to loyalty, filial piety, benevolence, fraternity, sincerity, righteousness, harmony and peace - the eight principles of social morality. As a good citizen, one must be loyal to the country; respect one's parents with filial piety; be friendly, humane and sincere and have a sense of justice; and conduct oneself with harmony and peace. Harmony and peace promotes unity, and unity is strength. Hence, in a broader sense, the courtesy campaign is of great importance as it involves the bringing about of an ethical and moral uplift leading to national unity as the driving force for nation-building.

I wish to take this opportunity to urge fellow citizens to attach importance to the courtesy campaign and to actively promote the campaign at home and outside. This, in fact, provides an opportunity for all of you to practise the ethical and moral principles mentioned above. The results will be beneficial not only to the individuals concerned but also to the nation and society at large.

May I now wish everyone good health and happiness.
