



SPEECH

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Speech by Mr Teo Chee Hean, Minister for Defence, at Press Conference held by Swedish Minister For Defence Mikael Odenberg and Singapore Minister For Defence Teo Chee Hean

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It's a great pleasure to be back in Sweden again. I've been visiting Sweden over the last one and a half decades. And it's an indication of the very long relationship that we've had with Sweden in the defence and security area that goes back more than three decades. We've been a user of Swedish materiel - radars, air defence systems - in our Air Force and Army; Command and Control systems as well. In the Navy, we've operated the Landsort-class mine-hunters and also refurbished Sjoorman class submarines and now we're in a programme to bring into service two refurbished Vastergotland-class submarines.

We're very grateful for the cooperation and friendship that we have with the Swedish Ministry of Defence and also the Swedish Armed Forces. The Swedish Armed Forces have been very helpful to the Singapore Navy in developing a submarine capability through the 90s through the Sjoorman programme. And we're also very grateful for the training that the Swedish Navy is providing to us through the Vastergotland programme. In fact, I'll be going to Karlskrona over the next couple of days to see some of our sailors there as they are undergoing training to operate the Vastergotlands. We have about 40 over people there now in Karlskrona.

As Minister Odenberg has said, although Sweden and Singapore are in different parts of the world, we find that because of globalisation, many of the challenges that we are facing are similar. We both desire to have peace and security in the world so that our people and our regions can grow and develop. We are both concerned about maritime security. We are both

concerned about the issues of extremism and terrorism and we've had good discussions on these issues and exchanged perspectives, and also talked about areas of co-operation for the future. Thank you very much.

News Release:

- Minister for Defence Meets Swedish Counterpart on First Official Visit to Sweden (MINDEF_20070831001_1.pdf)

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