

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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SPEECH BY MR. R.A. GONZALES, ASSEMBLY FOR SERANGOON GARDENS AT THE OPENING OF THE MASS X-RAY SURVEY AT SERANGOON GARDENS, DIRECTORIAL DIVISION ON NOVEMBER 23, 1964 AT 2 P.M.

I welcome this opportunity of addressing you on this occasion - the opening of this Mass X-Ray Survey of the residents of Serangoon Gardens.

Tuberculosis is still a major public health problem. It is estimated that in the whole world there are least 15 million people suffering from tuberculosis and more than three million die from this disease each year. In Singapore since 1958, more than 31,000 tuberculosis cases have been notified, and about 650 die of this disease each year. Most of these people died unnecessarily. Early diagnosis would have saved them. Tuberculosis is an insidious disease. In its early stages it gives no warning signals. Tuberculosis is a public menace. It is not just a personal problem - it is everyone's business.

It is the aim of the Government to eradicate tuberculosis from our midst in the shortest possible time. With this in mind, the Tuberculosis Control Unit of the Ministry of Health has embarked upon a Mass X-Ray Campaign to x-ray all persons above the age of 14 years in an attempt to discover all the active tuberculosis cases and treat them. This Campaign is a continuous process and the time has come for Government to bring the x-ray facilities right to our door-steps, to Serangoon Gardens.

As your Assemblyman, I appeal to all of you to present yourselves for an X-Ray. As in all projects, the success depends on the co-operation of everyone taking part. Therefore, in this survey, we look forward to your co-operation. Come forward to have yourself x-rayed and persuade your friends, neighbours and relatives to do the same, and you would have contributed your bit to make this Survey a success. Not only that, you would also have cleared your doubt whether you have Tuberculosis. It is so convenient to have yourself x-rayed. You may be x-rayed "clothed". Getting an x-ray doesn't cost you a cent. The whole process takes only a few minutes of your time.

The dangerous case is the unknown case. Many people suffer from the disease. They don't know about it - and infect others. This same, simple process has spread Tuberculosis since the beginning of history. Now it can be stopped if you check your chest - get an x-ray today. Don't be an unsuspecting victim of Tuberculosis and in all innocence pass it on to those you love.

To eliminate tuberculosis we must get 100% attendance. Help us, will you please, to have everyone taking part in this X-Ray Survey. NOVEMBER 23, 1964.

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