

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE YANG DI-PERTUAN NEGARA,  
TUANGKU YUSOF BIN ISPAK, AT THE COMBINED PARADE  
OF VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENTS AND THE JUNIOR RED  
CROSS AT THE RAFFLES INSTITUTION GROUNDS ON  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, AT 4.30 P.M.

It gives me great pleasure to be here this afternoon to review the Annual Combined Parade of the Voluntary Aid Detachments and the Junior Red Cross.

It is our good fortune, no less than our grave responsibility, to be the generation to have lived through great events, to have cushioned the shock of a great experience, and now to be given the opportunity of playing an important part in the development of our new nation.

The cry "All are brothers" which heralded the birth of the Red Cross over a hundred years ago, takes on a very significant note today, especially in a multi-racial society such as ours. In its humanitarian work, the Red Cross makes no distinction of race, nationality, religion, culture, political ideology or any other divisions or barriers. Membership is open to all; its assistance based on the principle of "The greatest help to the greatest need" is available to all. By working together as brothers in the humanitarian task of alleviating human sufferings, you are not only advancing the ideals and fulfilling the objectives of the Red Cross but also promoting mutual understanding and trust; mutual help and respect. This is a lasting contribution to a multi-racial society like ours.

I can think of no greater force for good than that which engages young people and grown adults actively in preparing themselves for service to others. One constructive way of making use of your leisure hours is to undergo training like this and to render service to mankind. In this way you are demonstrating the correct attitude in a democratic state - namely, responsible citizenship. Such civic consciousness augurs well for the future of our nation.

Finally, I must congratulate the recipients of the award of the Certificate of Commendation, and compliment you all on your smart turn-out today.

OCTOBER 16, 1965.

(Time issued: 1600 hours)