

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC.NOV.20/65(DF)

TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, MR. S. RAMASWAMY, AT THE
SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUKIT MERANG COMMUNITY
CENTRE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, AT 7 P.M.

I am indeed very happy to be with you tonight on the occasion of the second anniversary of this community centre.

The political development over the last two years had taken a rapid course. Malaysia was formed in September 1963 and barely two years later it was broken up and we now find ourselves having to cope up with the tremendous burden of an independent and sovereign nation.

Whatever the reason that led to our eviction is now for the time being immaterial. Our immediate task is to ensure that the objectives of the Government and the aspirations of people would take their proper course. The concept of a multi-racial society is as strong, if not stronger than, as when we were a member of a larger family.

We have a mandate and we are confident that under a multi-racial set-up we can steer Singapore towards success and prosperity. Our resources are limited but our determination and dynamism are inexhaustible and in two years we have sufficient and practicable plans to set a strong foundation for the future of independent Singapore. Economic and industrial development will proceed at a greater pace and social developments will continue to receive the attention of the Government.

All these good things we can achieve and have a will to achieve. But I should like to strike a fair warning at this moment, all these good things may be lost in the absence of political and economic stability. We are a small nation. We have no intention to upset anyone around us. At the same time, we cannot and will not allow ourselves to be disturbed by anyone. We have no capacity to attack anyone but we must have the capacity to defend ourselves. This is the time for every able bodied citizen to answer the country's call. This is our country and nobody else has a better right to defend it than ourselves. The enrolment of the Territorial Army will close on Monday, 15th of this month and please do not hesitate further. Enrol yourselves now for a national cause.

NOVEMBER 13, 1965.

(Time issued: 1420 hours)