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SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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SPEECH BY MINISTER FOR LAW, MR. E.W.BARKER, AT THE  
A.C.S.NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AT 7.45 A.M.ON AUG.8,1967.

My wife and I are very pleased to be able to attend this function in connection with our National Day.

In a democratic society, it is natural for every individual to have a number of loyalties. It is this that makes for richness and variety in life.

In a totalitarian state, be it Communist or Fascist, a man is expected to have only one loyalty and that is to the omnipotent State, for there is no room for other loyalties in a social set-up in which humans are mere automatons.

In democratic Singapore, every citizen is free to have a set of loyalties, which may be likened to concentric circles, the outermost ring being national loyalty. The rest may include loyalty to family, club, association, employer, friends or even a cause. These do not conflict since they are in the order of concentric circles, which do not intersect. Even the opposition members (assuming that there are opposition members) to the Government are first of all State nationals. As such they should be loyal to the nation; then the next object of their loyalty could be the party itself.

To go back to this occasion for which you are all foregathered: that you have organised this function on the eve of National Day indicates your loyalty first to nation and then to your school. If everybody follows this example, Singapore would have an ideal brand of citizenship. And speaking from experience, the ideal be it national loyalty or other fields of human endeavour, is not unattainable by the dynamic people of Singapore.

So on this occasion as we go into the spirit and gaiety of our second National Day, let us make every resolution to ever improve on our performance. I am confident that exactly one year from today when we celebrate our third National Day, Singapore will have recorded even greater progress to which all sectors of society including the Anglo Chinese School, will have contributed.

8TH AUGUST, 1967.

Time Issued: 0900 Hours.