

Speech by Mr. Chan Chee Song, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs, Senior Vice President, Singapore Olympic & Sports Council on the occasion of the departure of the Singapore team to the Mexico Olympic Games 24th September, 1968.

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On behalf of the people of Singapore, I wish you all the best at the World Olympics Games at Mexico. It was in 1960 that we last took part in the World Olympics and since then Singapore has become a young independent nation highly respected and honoured among all the nations of the world. You are a small team, but you have the quality to be suitable bearers of our Singapore flag. It is on the basis of quality that you represent us overseas. Our resources as a small country are necessarily limited, but I am sure you would understand that in the modern world it is not quantity that counts but invariably it is quality.

You have shown during recent months of severe testing and back-breaking training, that you are fit to represent your country at the highest possible level of international sports. I must also congratulate the Association to which you belong for the opportunities they have given you, the facilities they have provided for your training and the encouragement they have undoubtedly given you.

At the international meetings during recent years, we have shown the quality of our people. We have won gold medals in the Commonwealth Games at Oakland, New Zealand in the year 1954; at Cardiff, Wales in 1958; Perth, Australia in the year 1962. There have been a number of international competitions in Asia where we have proved our mettle. You are now given the privilege of continuing this tradition of success in international sports. You will show the world that the declared policy of our Government is to recognise the great dynamic role that sports can play in the development of social discipline, improvement of personal character and abiding loyalty to the country.

Severe as your task undoubtedly will be at Mexico, you must remember the principles of unity and patriotism which alone are the foundations for our national survival. We do admit that your task will be a very severe one, but surely if the task is difficult, the greater will be the effort. And now it is my privilege to present this flag of our country to your leader as a symbol of the very best wishes of all of us in Singapore.