

SPEECH BY MR. LIK GUAN HOO, POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR & DEFENCE AT THE PASSING OUT PARADE OF THE THIRD INTAKE OF NATIONAL SERVICEMEN OF THE SPECIAL LEADERS' COURSE AND THE GROUP LEADERS' COURSE OF THE VIGILANTE CORPS AT THE CENTRAL BASE AT WHAMPOLA S. CONDARY SCHOOL ON SUNDAY, 20TH JULY 1969 AT 5.00 P.M.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

History has shown us the wisdom of taking nothing for granted and always to be prepared. Recent events in this part of the world all go to show that we are living in a highly fluid situation in South-east Asia which is going through and will continue to go through a period of flux and change. At this moment, we are confronted with challenges which are urgent and our people are expected to make the proper and dynamic response. For this reason, we have repeatedly stressed the importance of being on our guard all the time. We should never allow ourselves to be caught unprepared through our being self-indulgent and soft. In times of trials and tribulations, our dedication, discipline and our will to survive will be fully tested.

The Vigilante Corps is not a new organisation. It was formed during the difficult days of confrontation and disorders of 1964 and 1965 to assist in maintaining law and order. Since then it has developed into a tightly knit and robust organisation with an important role to play. The Vigilante Corps is not only an organisation to assist the police in preserving order but is a dynamic force for nation-building. Through common service in this organisation, volunteers as well as National Servicemen from all walks of life and of different races or creed are able to develop a sense of commitment to the Republic and learn the meaning of national unity. The whole movement now takes on the shape of a youth organisation. This can only come about through the impact of the educative process that is going on in the entire organisation. Members of the vigilante Corps led by leaders who can inspire confidence and who can move them to serve the nation with dedication and fervour, are moulded to become highly discipline, useful and responsible citizens, ready to meet the challenges ahead.

The passing out of the third intake of the Special Leaders' Course and the Group Leaders' Course marks yet another mile-stone in the history of the Vigilante Corps. The Corps itself was re-organised and to give better facilities and more intensive training so that quality performance can be attained by every member in the organisation. Now the Vigilante Corps is truly a vast uniformed, disciplined organisation which has trained leaders with the conviction, skills, and experience to steer the organisation forward to greater achievements. Those who are passing out today will have heavy responsibilities to shoulder.

They will be expected to lead other Vigilante Corps members and to influence them to become better citizens. Their abilities and performance as leaders will be tested when they are posted to the training centres to lead the various units. What they can achieve in the final analysis will depend upon their imagination, determination and initiative. The task ahead is an arduous one, but it is one that is most rewarding and challenging.

Finally, I wish to congratulate all those who are successful in the Special Leaders' and Group Leaders' Courses. They have gone through an arduous and intensive phase of training. I am sure that with leadership qualities they have displayed so far in their training, they will prove to be an asset to the Vigilante Corps, and I am confident that they will be able to play an important part in making the Vigilante Corps an institution of even greater significance. Thank you.