

Speech by Mr. Tang See Chim, M.P. for Chua
Chu Kang, at the Get-together Party of the
National Servicemen and Residents of Chua
Chu Kang to be held at Jalan Teck Whye Camp. No. 4
on 22.12.70 at 7.30 p.m.

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I am happy to be present at this National Servicemen and Residents' Get-together Party, and I wish to thank you on behalf of the Minister for Defence and on my own behalf for inviting us here this evening.

2. This get-together party is a concrete demonstration of the friendship between the people and members of our Armed Forces. It also demonstrates the identity of interest among the people and the Armed Forces, i.e. both the soldiers and the people are citizens of the State and their concern is for the security and prosperity of the nation.

3. Sun Tzu said, "War is a matter of vital importance to the State; the province of life and death; the road to survival or ruin." He continued to say that the war must be appraised in terms of the five fundamental factors, the first of which, he said, was "moral influence". He went on to say:-

"By moral influence, I mean that which causes the people to be in harmony with their leaders, so that they will accompany them in life and unto death without fear of mortal peril."

4. Tonight's gathering of the members of the Armed Forces, the people and their leaders is evidence of this harmony.

5. National service in Singapore is necessary because of our limited resources. As an independent country, we cannot afford to let outsiders defend us, much less hired mercenaries. We must have our own citizen-army.

6. It was Machiavelli who said, "The chief foundations of all states, whether new, old, or mixed, are good laws and good arms." We have good laws in Singapore, and we

are now going to have good arms, meaning our own citizen-army. For "mercenaries and auxiliaries are useless and dangerous, and if any one supports his state by the arms of mercenaries, he will never stand firm or sure, as they are disunited, ambitious, without discipline, faithless, bold amongst friends, cowardly amongst enemies, they have no fear of God, and keep no faith with men. Ruin is only deferred as long as the assault is postponed; in peace you are despoiled by them, and in war by the enemy."

//Here the assessment of both Eastern and Western philosophers coincide. Security is of vital importance to the State. It can only be defended by a citizen-army imbued with a sense of service^{to} and love for the country.

7. In Singapore, I think we are having the nucleus of such an army. Our Armed Forces are not only well-trained to defend the security of our country but also help with the development of our country in peace time.

8. Members of Jalan Teck Whye Camp, for example, during their spare time from training have helped with the development of Chua Chu Kang. They have helped with the clearing of drains and the mending of roads in resettlement areas in Chua Chu Kang. These are menial tasks but their significance is important. It shows that our ^{soldiers} are the friends of the people, they are concerned not only with the security of the country but with its development. And what one builds, one defends more zealously. This is the meaning of harmony, indeed, an identity of interests for which our soldiers and our people should be prepared to defend with their lives.

9. It only remains for me to thank you on behalf of the residents of Chua Chu Kang for all your help during the time you spent in Jalan Teck Whye Camp and to wish you Godspeed in your civilian life, to which you will ^{soon} return.