

EMBARGOED TILL AFTER DELIVERY

Speech by Mr. Lim Guan Hoo, Political Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs, at the Passing Out
Parade of the 6th. intake of V.C. National
Servicemen at Swiss Cottage Secondary School,
Dunearn Road, on Sunday, 27 December, 1970 at 5.00p.m.

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I am glad to be here this evening to witness the Combined Passing Out parade of 373 National Servicemen from the 6th. intake of the Vigilante Corps.

The Vigilante Corps was formed during the days of Confrontation in 1963 with the objective of assisting the Police in curbing illegal and anti-national activities. Over 12,500 persons responded spontaneously to the need of the nation by voluntarily registering in the Vigilante Corps and assisting the law enforcement agencies to patrol streets, kampongs and beaches to detect and prevent acts of sabotage and violence.

Today, the situation has completely changed. Confrontation has become a history of the past. But the Vigilante Corps still remains. It has fulfilled its useful purpose and has also undergone organisational and structural changes as time marches. This is inevitable as social concepts, needs and values have to change with times.

The Vigilante Corps today is playing a different role from that when it was first formed. The Vigilante Corps is now a National Service and a National Youth Movement contributing its share in the arduous task of nation-building. This role is all the more important with the introduction of National Service as more than half of Singapore's population is youth. The V.C. has therefore embarked upon a systematic and comprehensive training programme for the National Servicemen so that they could be of constructive use to the country at all times.

Although the role of the V.C. has changed in conformity with social needs and environment, let us not for one moment forget the one perennial factor governing the organisation of the Corps. This is the composition of the V.C.

Since the inception of the V.C., men of different races, of diverse cultures, of different religions and also from all walks of life have been joining the ranks. And it is heartening to note that all members work together in harmony and mutual understanding as a Corps and not as individuals. The atmosphere of togetherness and co-operation always prevails and pervades all ranks so much so that the Vigilante Corps can be regarded as a mirror reflecting the multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religious society in Singapore. All V.C. members must be proud of this fact and must ensure that nothing is and will be done to impair the good image of the organisation.

Finally I wish to congratulate all of you for your smart turn out and bearing and also those recipients of Certificates of Merit. However I would like to stress at the same time that you should not be complacent or conceited of your achievements as there are other greater goals to achieve and bigger success to attain in the future. On this note I will end my speech and wish all of you every success in life.