

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

SPEECH BY MRS. B.N. SHEARES AT THE INSTALLATION
CEREMONY OF THE SINGAPORE GIRL GUIDES' OF THE
SINGAPORE GIRL GUIDES' ASSOCIATION ON 5TH JUNE
1971 AT GUIDE HOUSE

I am very happy to be with you this afternoon and I hope to be able to witness several more of your activities in the future. When I was young I had no opportunity to be a Guide; it now gives me great pleasure to be the 'youngest' member of the Guide Movement since I was enrolled only last Saturday.

My message concerns the role of young uniformed organisations in our society. Members of youth movements have special privileges and responsibilities. The special privileges are that you are looked upon with respect and affection by the general public. You also receive instructions in first aid, homecraft, mothercraft, creative skills, carpentry, woodcraft, which are useful and practical acquisitions.

On the other hand, these must be matched by your responsibilities to society. You must also pass on to others what you have learnt. There must be no hesitation to help the less fortunate. You must also try to narrow the generation gap by service to elderly people. Many people have given up their leisure hours for the Movement, and it is only fair, that someday when you grow older, the same sacrifices should be made, for the sake of the coming generation.

Singapore is a young country both in nation-hood and population. The spirit of youthful idealism is thus prevalent in every facet of life in our Republic. With almost 10,000 members in the Movement and each promising to do his or her best always to serve the country and to help the less fortunate, there is no better way of character as well as nation-building.

I wish you all 'Happy Guiding'.

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