

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

HC:JUL/21/71(ISTANA)

Speech by President Shocros at the Installation Banquet and Ball
by Rotary Club of Singapore East at the Ambassador Hotel on
Saturday, 19th June 1971 at 8.00 p.m.

You are indeed hospitable to invite me to join your company twice in a day, and patient, too, to listen to me twice on the same day. I feel I am delivering twins, one within hours of the other, but to follow the analogy through, at least they are not, I assure you, identical twins!

Your conference tasks are not I understand yet completed. But it is good to know that the first half of the game has been well played according to your Rotary rules, and I hope that your sessions will end with satisfaction to all who have taken part.

This morning I welcomed you as coming from our S.E. Asian region, and this evening I would add my welcome to you for your activities in your respective countries, for you as Rotarians are known as outward and upward looking citizens, and this is important in ours which is an age of challenge to action. To do social service in one's community is not just a status symbol or in the jargon phrase, "an attempt to keep up with the Jones's"; it is the logical expression of our humanitarian feelings and our national citizenship. It may be asked whether with the speed of technological change in our contemporary world, there ever will be a time when we sit back and relax, and assess and enjoy what we have created. But if ever there will be such a time it is certainly not now, when development is the order of the day. We do not want to stand still when the world is on the move; nor indeed could we safely and with dignity do so.

We in S.E. Asia have a rich inheritance of human vitality and potentiality; and we have good prospects for our future. We must seek to translate this inheritance into achievements which give pride and prosperity and a place in the sun to all our fellow-citizens. As you are aiming to do in your INTERACT movement we must strive to enlarge the horizon of opportunity and expectation for our younger generation approaching the threshold of adult responsibility.

We must be up and doing to help each other. We are learning to live in the new setting of our changing contemporary world. We can learn from the experience of others, and we can borrow their techniques;

but it is our own way of life not theirs that we are striving to establish, our own experience we want to accumulate and learn from. To imitate others and accept from others is the dependence we have left behind; to select from others and to apply what we select to our own way of life is the independence we are creating. But we must live by doing. And to-day we have the opportunity to exert the will which in the words of the old proverb, finds the way. We must show the will to will. There is enough work for everyone to do - government, administrators, and private citizens like you who are members of the Rotary movement. In joining the Rotary movement, you have not only agreed to service; but in the terms of your own motto, Service before Self, service in the wider context of the opportunities and needs of our society. And in so doing, you have voluntarily accepted a standard of self-criticism and of social judgment of your work. May this spirit continue to stimulate and direct your work.

Mr. District Governor, this has indeed been a day of Rotary regionalism for me. I have enjoyed your company; I have felt your sense of service; and I have appreciated your generous hospitality. May I simply and sincerely thank you; and wish you all success in your long perspectives of your Rotary way ahead, as your wheel continues to move.

Date: 19th June, 1971.

Time Taken: 1000 Hours.