

PRESS RELEASE

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(The Parade marks the completion of 26 weeks of basic training for three squads of recruits)  
SPEECH BY MR. LIM GUAN HOO, POLITICAL SECRETARY (HOME AFFAIRS) AT THE PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE POLICE ACADEMY GROUND ON THURSDAY, 12TH AUGUST, 1971 AT 5.30 P.M.

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This is a proud day for all of you. In the past few months, the Police Academy has given you the necessary instruction to be members of the Police Force of our Republic. Now, you are qualified to ensure that law and order are maintained. On your behaviour as members of the Police Force you will be judged as to whether you are worthy of the responsibility entrusted upon you. The life of a policeman is not an easy one. But it is a responsible one. For without law and order, Singapore cannot consolidate the foundation of its multi-racial society, and safeguard its economic development. Our Republic will face all kinds of problems, if we do not integrate all our races into one nation.

It is important to realise that law and order cannot be the result of the work of the Police alone. It can only be effectively maintained, if the Police receives public co-operation. This co-operation can come about if the Police behaves responsibly, and enforces the law justly and impartially. This co-operation must be built on the foundation of mutual understanding between the Police and the Public.

The key to this understanding lies in the ability of the Police and the Public to communicate with one another. In other words, in our society of so many languages and dialects, it is important that Policemen should be able to speak more than one language, or at least know a dialect. Although, the laws are in the English language, those who enforce the law must be able to deal with the public in other languages or dialects as well. We have stressed bi-lingualism in schools. We have not emphasized enough the need for our policemen to know more than one language or at least a dialect. This is important as our police comes into daily contact with large numbers of people who do not know the English language.

In the re-organisation of the Police Force now being introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs, steps will be taken to see that the composition of our Police Force will reflect the character

of our multi-racial society. There will be incentives for policemen to know more than one language, and those who speak the dialects will find it an added advantage in their career. The bilingual policeman is a more useful member than the policeman who knows only one language.

In this graduation ceremony, there are many women police. In fact, they form 60%. There are in such numbers because it is intended that more women will be recruited into the Force to take desk jobs from men whose contribution will be better made in more active roles of police work. Last November, the Traffic Division put women police on patrol duties. In countries where women police are put on traffic duties, they have been found to do the job as well as men. In future, more women will be put on traffic duties.

Before I conclude, I wish to extend to all of you my heartiest congratulations. May you all have a successful career.

**PRESS SECTION,  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE.**

Date: 12th August, 1971.