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Speech of Mr. L. P. Rodrigo, Parliamentary Secretary
of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the Passing-Out Parade of the
Special Constabulary on Thu. day, 19th August, 1971,
at 5.15 p.m. at the Police Academy.

I am glad to be here this evening to witness this parade in which you are passing out as law enforcement officers.

In preparing to be Special Constables in the Singapore Police Force you have received training in Drill, First Aid, Civics, Weapons, Police General Orders and the Law. You now join more than five thousand of your colleagues in law enforcement duties.

This parade has a significance. The ceremony here this evening symbolises the conferment of authority upon you by the public and their trust and confidence in you as law enforcement officers who will protect them from lawlessness and help them to be law-abiding citizens through proper enforcement of the law.

The public today is well informed and articulate. As a result you must avoid a mere blunt assertion of the law in your law enforcing duties. Instead you must be consistently rational in enforcing the law and keep improving your capacity to do so by knowing your Law and the Police Orders well.

It is important to be conscious all the time that authority is not synonymous with arrogance. Authority can be efficiently and effectively applied with sober reasoning, patient understanding and quiet firmness. Where you encounter arrogance in members of the public you should never allow yourself to be provoked in a similar fashion, for you are the trained and disciplined officer and the law is available to assist you in your duties.

I congratulate you on this occasion and in particular the 24 who have excelled in basic training and have been awarded Certificates of Merit.

In conclusion, I wish to remind you that in fulfilling all your duties, you will be dealing closely with the public who will expect your loyalty to the country, your dedication to duty, your courtesy and humanity to the people and your courage in enforcing the law as much as the Code of Ethics of the Police Force motivates you towards these ideals.

I wish you success in National Service in the Singapore Police Force.

18th August, 1971.