

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

SPEECH OF MR. TANG SEE CHIM, M.P. FOR CHUA CHU KANG CONSTITUENCY AND AG. MINISTER FOR FINANCE ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. SHEARES TO THE CHUA CHU KANG CONSTITUENCY ON FRIDAY, 22ND OCT. 1971 AT THE LAM SOON COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 8.00 P.M.

First of all, may I on behalf of the citizens of the Chua Chu Kang Constituency warmly welcome you, Mr. President, and Mrs. Sheares to our constituency. We are honoured by your visit.

Since your assumption of office at the beginning of this year, you have untiringly made visits to the various Government Ministries and departments so as to acquaint yourself with the many facets and activities of the governmental process. We are happy that the first rural constituency you have chosen to visit should be Chua Chu Kang. Your visit tonight is significant. It is the first visit of the President of our Republic to Chua Chu Kang. It demonstrates your concern and your interest in the people - how they live and how they work at the constituency level. We rejoice at your visit.

As you know, Chua Chu Kang is a rural constituency. Most of the people here are farmers. While the constituency is not in the forefront of economic development in Singapore, we have nevertheless made our contributions, in however humble a way.

A great number of the farmers now living in Chua Chu Kang were once living in Jurong and other places. They were resettled in Chua Chu Kang so that development in Jurong and the rest of Singapore could proceed. In this way, a great number of the farmers in Chua Chu Kang constituency contribute to the industrial and economic development of our Republic. Most of these people did so with a cheerful heart. But for their sacrifice, economic development in Singapore would not have attained the pace at which it is going to-day. They are the unsung heroes in our development process.

Being a small country with no natural resources, there are severe constraints to our economic development. In spite of these limitations, however, we have given a good account of ourselves. We have in the 150 odd years since modern Singapore was founded, developed from a fishing village into an industrial centre. Our aim is to become

a service and brain centre of this region. This is a logical development in view of the fact that the only resources we have are our human resources. We must develop our human resources to the full.

This development would contribute not only to our economic development by raising the standard of life of our people, but also to political development. With a better educated and more politically-conscious population, it is easier for democracy to take root, and for the democratic process to be institutionalised. It will be that much more difficult for political opportunists and adventurers to deceive the people.

Under your able leadership and that of the Government, we have achieved political stability, economic prosperity and social harmony. We must now inculcate in our people a sense of dedication and service to our country so that our nation can long endure.

Date: 23.10.71.