

Speech of Mr. L. P. Rodrigo, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs at the Vigilante Corps Passing-Out Parade of the 8th Intake of National Servicemen at the Haig Road Camp on 19th Dec., 1971, at 5 p.m.

You are the 8th Intake of National Servicemen to pass out as members of the Vigilante Corps and in your Basic Training, you have learned that apart from being what you are, an individual with your own interests and preferences, you are also a member of an organised and disciplined group, whether the group is a Unit, a Section or the Corps as a whole.

In accomplishing certain tasks efficiently you have realised that disciplined group action is necessary. This is a critical experience in your training and an important object of National Service in the Vigilante Corps.

By the same token your place in society is not only that of an individual seeking to fulfil your own personal interests, but also as a citizen seeking to achieve collectively with other citizens the larger objectives of the organisation called the State, for the welfare of all citizens.

National Service in the Vigilante Corps serves as a constant reminder of your dual role in society as individual and citizen. The Vigilante Corps requires you to put on the Vigilante Corps uniform a number of times per week and respond as an efficient member of the Corps. At the same time it encourages you to conduct yourself as a successful individual and a contributive citizen for the remainder of the week.

As an organisation for the conditioning of our youth into fine individuals and contributive citizens, the Vigilante Corps will continue to incorporate meaningful systems of training in the organisation.

In turn, I expect every member of the Corps to respond with pride and dedication to the ideals of the Vigilante Corps.

I have pleasure in congratulating you on your having accomplished a successful Basic Training, and in particular those of you who have received awards for outstanding performance.