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SPEECH OF MR. L.F. RODRIGO, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, ON THE OCCASION OF THE PASSING
OUT PARADE OF THE 7TH INTAKE OF SPECIAL CONSTABULARY
OFFICERS AT THE POLICE ACADEMY ON 29TH APRIL, 1972 AT 5.15 P.M.

I am glad to be here to review this parade.

Having completed your training which began in November last year, you are now ceremonially confirmed as law enforcement officers and will perform normal police officers duties in the divisions and units to which you will be posted.

All of you will undertake beat and patrol duties at one time or another, if not most of the time. It is in this connection that I wish to stress a point this evening.

Beat and patrol duties make up the police officers initial stint. But it is the stint in which the intrinsic worth of the police officer may find expression.

Law enforcement entails crime prevention and crime detection. These are the two basic objectives of the Police Officer's commitment. The police prevent crimes but if crimes are committed, the police detect them. In this way, the police suppress crimes.

When you are on beat and patrol duties, you are suppressing crimes. Crime suppression is achieved by initial dissuasion through the constructive presence of the police, by effective information and extensive investigation.

Your contribution is largely towards crime prevention. You will note that I have used the term constructive police presence. By this I mean an alert and active manner of conducting your beat and patrol duties. Beat and patrol duties should be undertaken with efficient observation and effective intervention. Beat and patrol duties conducted in a constructive manner will prevent crimes and the information gathered from such beats and patrols will greatly assist investigation and the detection of criminals. Let me stress that your passive presence in beat and patrol duties will not be sufficient. The Special Constabulary logs 80,500 man-hours each month almost entirely on beats and patrols. The Special Constabulary is thus a significant resources which can be utilised to ensure law and order in our society.

But let me also remind you that the people you deal with are fellow citizens and individuals who have a claim to the lawful and fair conduct of the police officer.

There is a challenging task ahead of you. The job calls for courage and dedication without which the work of the police officer will be sterile.

I trust that all of you will respond to our expectations.

I now wish to congratulate you for your impressive turn out and in particular the twenty-four officers who have excelled in basic training and have been awarded Certificates of Merit.

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

Date: 29.4.72.

Time Issued: 1230 Hours.