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SPEECH BY DR YEOH GHIM SENG AT THE COMMISSIONING  
 PARADE OF INFANTRY OFFICER CADETS AT THE PADANG  
 ON SATURDAY, 31ST MARCH 1973 AT 1730 HOURS

The citizens of Singapore I am sure are by now convinced that the national service and the rapid build-up of the Singapore Armed Forces have contributed in no small measure towards the economic prosperity the Republic is enjoying today. Singapore's overall economic rate of growth has averaged more than 13% over the past five years. The build-up of the SAF over the same period has provided confidence to the investors and the public at large.

In addition to providing security, a number of skills are learnt by national servicemen whilst they are in full-time service. The army is a continuous school imparting vocational skills to the soldiers. As these skills are in demand by the industries this has contributed directly to the industrial growth.

Another desirable quality that is imparted to the young men in service is the discipline of the mind and the body. With these attributes there is no shortage of opportunity for productive work in the many industries in Singapore. Indeed many of the big organisations like Jurong Shipyard and Rolloi have found reservists to be very good material for further training abroad.

In the national service system, unlike a regular standing army, the country is not burdened with the salaries of all the

soldiers. The reservists have civilian jobs and contribute directly to the economic production of the country. They are also at the same time available as a trained Reserve for duty in any emergency.

However, the reservist has certain obligations. He must not only attend periodic training but must also keep himself physically fit and up-to-date in his military vocation.

May I in conclusion congratulate the prize winners on their achievements and all of you on your smart turnout today. I wish all of you best of luck in your future.