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SPEECH BY DR. YEOH CHIL SENG, SPEAKER, SINGAPORE  
PARLIAMENT, AT THE COMMISSIONING PARADE OF INFANTRY  
OFFICER CADETS AT TOA PAYOH STADIUM ON SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 17, 1974, AT 5.30 P.M.

The commissioning parade of SAF officer cadets is an event that we take pride in. It is not merely a matter of turnout and pageantry. The occasion also imparts to all of us a sense of achievement. This afternoon's parade for another batch of infantry officer cadets is just such an occasion. It marks another forward step in the build-up of the Singapore Armed Forces. At the same time, from the point of view of the individual officer cadet, it is a moment that he has looked forward to - a moment that gives him deep satisfaction as it signals the successful completion of a trying period of intense, rigorous training.

By going through and finally passing the officer cadet training course, you have attained a good amount of military knowledge and acquired a number of practical military skills. But above all, you have developed and matured. As an officer, you are a leader of men. You have been trained to instruct and to lead. You have been judged to have possessed initiative and organisational ability, and a high sense of discipline and responsibility. You have, I am sure, gained considerable confidence as a person.

You will soon hold responsible positions in the various SAF units. Your newly-acquired knowledge and skills will find scope for use. You will gain further useful experience. Many of you will be in the position of commanding and training men in the field. Whatever your appointment, you will always remember the need to exercise effective leadership.

Leadership requires both firmness and understanding. The relationship between you and your men is not one of master and servant. Your men are human beings, free citizens of a proud Republic. Be sensitive to their needs and problems. At the same time you must correct them .....2/-

correct them when they make mistakes and not hesitate to punish when they violate the rules. However, the best influence you can have over your men is neither by coercion nor persuasion. It is by example. You must strive to be a model of what a good soldier in Singapore should be: loyal, dedicated and totally committed.

May I now congratulate you on the successful completion of the course and I wish you success in your new appointments.

FEBRUARY 17, 1974.

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