

7/5/74

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH, DR ANG KOK PENG,
AT THE ST JOHN CADET PARADE ON SUNDAY, 30 JUNE 1974 AT 4 PM
HELD AT THE POLICE ACADEMY

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I am happy to be here to-day to witness your splendid performance of footdrill parade. I congratulate you for having been specially selected by your areas to represent them at this Parade and I understand some of you will also have the honour of marching under the banner of the St John Ambulance Brigade at the National Day celebration.

2 As St John Cadets, you belong to an Organisation that can trace its roots way back many centuries to an origin in a distant land very different from what your Organisation is to-day. The early objective of the Order of St John was concerned with providing shelter and medical care for pilgrims visiting holy places in West Asia. Much has changed since then both in its form and activities.

3 However, during the long period of the metamorphosis of the Organisation the spirit of charity which inspired its foundation has remained as a motivating force of the Organisation. It now serves as the guiding principle of your voluntary service to the sick and wounded and other acts of compassion. It is as relevant to-day as ever before, and you should always abide by it. Time has not reduced its moral and social values but has made it even more desirable in our present day context where if we are not always on our guard we tend to become more selfish and materialistic in outlook with little concern for the welfare of our fellowmen.

4 I am very glad that you in your early teens have found expression for your youthful idealism through rendering service to the sick and wounded and the needy. As you know, we in Singapore are very concerned with the quality of our youth and

their proper development into responsible citizens with strong moral character and a concern for the well being of others.

5 While it is necessary for our youth to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills appropriate for a modern society in a world of space travel and electronic systems, they also have a responsibility to make judicious use of their leisure in the pursuit of meaningful and wholesome activities that will contribute to harmonious social relationship and the positive expression and fulfilment of their youthful idealism.

6 In a way, your world is more exciting than that of your parents when they were your age; however, the challenging problems you face in the process of growing up are more complex and the test of your quality will be so much more severe and your success so much sweeter. I hope you meet these challenges successfully and come out with flying colours.

 It remains for me to thank you for having me here this evening.

Date: 30 June 1974