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Embargoed Till After
Delivery

CEREMONIAL PASSING-OUT PARADE OF POLICE CONSTABLES
REVIEWED BY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER 'POLICE NATIONAL
SERVICE' MR S T AMERASINGHE AT POLICE ACADEMY ON

9 MAY 75

Officers on Parade,

1 I am very impressed with what I have seen this evening of your drill, bearing and turnout and I congratulate the 57 graduating officers and especially the prize winners for their fine showing whilst in training. I should point out however, that your training and learning days are by no means over. They have in fact just begun. Police work involves all aspects of human relations and you are bound to encounter in your day to day duties, situations which your basic training did not cover. No two experiences will be the same and it is this in fact that makes the job of police officers more interesting and challenging and distinguishes it from most other vocations.

2 You need not, however, be anxious on account initially you might now know what is the right thing to do in a given situation. The Police Force is very well equipped. The present state of its communication and transport is better than it has ever been in the past and this is still undergoing improvements. Shortly every officer on patrol will be in two-way radio contact with his headquarters and talk-through facility could even be extended from officer to officer so that they themselves could plan and co-ordinate their own actions on the ground. You are,

therefore, never really "alone" on the job. You will always have recourse to advice and assistance from more experienced officers with whom you will be in constant contact. In due course, there is no doubt that you yourselves will be looked to for advice and guidance by your colleagues who are less experienced.

3 Our Police Force has a high reputation for service and integrity and you and I can justifiably be proud of being members thereof. True from time to time, there has been individual officers whose conduct and integrity have been found wanting but this has by no means impaired the good name of the Force. This is on account that the Force has kept a vigilant eye out for such miscreants and has always been prepared to discipline and, if needs be purge itself of them. If you do not intentionally neglect your duty or compromise your integrity, there is nothing you need fear. If you did your job diligently and honestly there should in fact be a bright and interesting future for you in the Force. Integrity, good work and performance is never lost sight of and appropriate recognition is always bestowed on the deserving officers. I hope you will be one of those who will be commended for these qualities.

4 The phenomenon of a world-wide rise in crime has not escaped us. The crime rate in Singapore also is and has been on the increase. We cannot and must not accept this as inescapable. We must muster all our resources and do our best to reverse this

on 11/11/60

undesirable trend. This is not the fight of the Police alone but every citizen has a part to play in it. Consequently there must be good co-operation between the police and the public. This co-operative effort is easily established by the way we in the police conduct ourselves and carry out our duties.

5 As our job involves dealing with people, we must not be mechanical and unfeeling in the execution of our duties. Your day-to-day duties will bring you in constant contact with-

- a people requiring assistance and guidance;
- b people who are over exuberant;
- c those who have committed minor infringements; and
- d criminals.

In fact it is only seldom that you will have actually to deal with criminals. More frequently it is the other groups that will occupy your attention. Those requiring assistance and guidance must be attended to promptly and with courtesy. The over exuberant must be calmed and placated to avoid a breach of the peace and you must use your good judgement and discretion in dealing with those who commit minor infringements of the law. Though these people may demonstrate and agitatedly protest their innocence before you, you should display professionalism and always remain calm and collected and not lose your equilibrium. If you have addressed your mind on

the possibility of such a reaction by this group of persons, then this is not hard to do. It is only when you permit yourself to be surprised by such reactions that you are likely to be thrown off balance.

6 There is a bright and interesting future ahead of you in the Force. The Police Force offers scope for the development of a wide range of talents and interests - from seamanship to electrical, mechanical and wireless engineering to cartography, photography and computer science. Even if you do not specialise in any of these there are a whole host of other interesting activities through which you could rotate. It is in fact a policy of the Force to rotate officers through these various jobs so that they acquire an all round experience in their duties. There is also ample opportunity for sports and games of every kind. You should make the best of these excellent opportunities and I wish you all every success in your careers.

9 May 75