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SPEECH BY MR CHAN CHEE SENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
TO THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AT THE GRADUATION PARADE
OF THE SEVENTH INTAKE OF FULL-TIME POLICE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN
ON FRIDAY, 15 APRIL 1977, AT 5.45 P.M. AT THE POLICE ACADEMY

It is a pleasure for me to be present here to review the graduation parade of the seventh intake of full-time Police National Servicemen. The smartness shown by the Servicemen and the impressiveness of this parade indicate the quality of the training that all of you have gone through. It is most encouraging to find that more and more of our youths are responding well to the training which is designed to train them to play a role as a National force for the protection of our people through law enforcement and crime prevention. Your 3-month basic training in the Police Academy is just the beginning, for there is still much to be learned in this modern Police Force which has a system of administration in line with modern concepts in management, training and education programmes. The aim is to teach the latest techniques with the view of attaining the highest professional standards. You should always maintain the tradition of efficiency, duty and service which is expected in the Police Force.

Soon all of you will be ...

Soon all of you will be posted out to the Divisions and Units for general duties. Following your postings, you will continue to receive a further three months of induction training at the various Land Divisions and Reserve Units. During this period, you will acquire practical experience under the supervision of regular Police Officers whilst serving in the Divisions. There will be rotation of your duties on a 3-monthly basis and further in-service training will be provided to gear you up to these changes in your duties every three months.

There has been a transformation of the Police Force which has now become our National force since independence. For over a century prior to our independence, civil control was exercised through the power of the Police. For this reason, the unthinking among us still fear the Police and do not realise that we now have a Police Force conscious of its responsibilities and obligations to the people and dedicated to serve all alike with a sense of justice and fair-play that is fundamental to law enforcement. The fact is that our Police Force has been re-organised after independence without any fuss or fanfare, and not surprisingly so for an organisation that has been running smoothly and efficiently, and quietly enforcing law and protecting our citizens.

The growth of the Police ...

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The growth of the Police National Service is even more remarkable.

For here, we have our young citizens from various walks of life responding nobly to National Service and playing an effective role in enforcing law and protecting our citizens. They realise that there is no choice in the matter if we are to ensure the security and well-being of our people and to preserve what we have achieved in the past and what we aspired to do in the future for our multi-racial society.

The training given to our National Servicemen not only make them into well-trained personnel, but also good citizens as well. They have been taught to be loyal and honest men - men who will have consideration for their fellowmen, men who believe in the democratic way of life and men who will always serve their fellow citizens in times of difficulty. When they go into Reserve Service, they will not forget the lessons they have learnt. Thus, the nation will be enriched by the influx into the community of men instilled with certain values of discipline, loyalty and leadership which will stand them in good stead in withstanding the challenges of life.

In July this year, ...

In July this year, personnel of the first batch who were enlisted in July 1975 are due to complete their two years' full-time service. They will then go into Reserve Service during which period they will perform part-time duties in the Divisions and Units to which they have been attached. At this point, the strength of National Servicemen in full-time Police Service will saturate and stabilise at 4,000 Junior Officers and 200 Officer Cadets.

From July 1977, the Reserve Service strength of the Police National Servicemen full-time will build up at the rate of 2,000 each year. This growing number of trained personnel will be organised to provide an island-wide crime preventing network.

Congratulations to those of you who are graduating today. The people of Singapore have a right to expect that you will do your duties. I sincerely hope that you will not look upon this graduation as the end of your training for the proof is yet to come. There is still plenty more to learn where you will be posted to. We have placed our faith in you. Whether our expectations can be realised depend upon how well you have absorbed all that you have been taught and with what initiative and determination you will carry out your assignments.

May I wish you every success in the days ahead.