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SPEECH BY MR CH'NG JIT KOON, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER, AT THE BIENNIAL
GENERAL MEETING OF THE TIONG BAHRU CONSTITUENCY
YOUTH GROUP AT TIONG BAHRU COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON THURSDAY, 9 JUNE 1983 AT 7.30 PM

First of all, may I say how happy I am to be here this evening to witness the Tiong Bahru Constituency Youth Group Biennial General Meeting.

The Tiong Bahru Constituency Youth Group had its beginning in June 1972 when it was then known as the Tiong Bahru Community Centre Youth Sub-Committee. Over the last ten years, the group has progressed and expanded in terms of membership and activities organised. The steady growth of the group was the work of the past Youth Executive Committees who had selflessly put in much of their time and effort for the good of the youth group and the community.

You have just elected 15 members to lead the youth group for the next two years. It is my hope that the new Youth Executive Committee will build on the achievements of the past committees. We must never be contented and complacent with what we have achieved. As elected leaders, you will have to motivate and inspire your members to come forward to participate in the activities of the group and to serve the community. You have to set examples by your hardwork and dedication in order to realise the objectives of the youth group.

One of the main aims of the People's Association Youth Movement is "to organise various activities beneficial to youth and to encourage their participation, particularly in social and community service thereby channelling their energies to constructive pursuits". To realise this objective, the youth leaders must be forward-looking and imaginative in programme planning. The support of the ordinary members for the programmes planned by the Youth Executive Committee is also equally important. I therefore hope the ordinary members will fully support the committee members you have elected by actively participating in the various activities organised by the youth group.

With greater affluence, the needs and demands of today's youth have changed. For the youth group to remain relevant and effective in meeting the emerging needs and interests of the young people, a constant review of its programme and services is necessary. From time to time, the youth group must introduce new and wholesome forms of recreational, cultural and sports activities favoured by the youth. At the same time we must not forget about community service and social education activities. Activities such as rendering regular voluntary service to welfare homes, agencies and the community; tuition for the needy students; counselling for ex-drug takers; care for the senior citizens and support for national campaigns must continue to be emphasized. There is also a need to organise more activities which will help promote greater interest among young people in current affairs and enhance their socio-political awareness.

As you know, the Youth Executive Committee is one of the grassroots organisations in the community. It should continue to work closely with the CCMC and other grassroots organisations for the betterment of the community.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all those who served in the outgoing Youth Executive Committee and I look forward to working closely with the new Youth Executive Committee.

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