

# PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY PRESIDENT C V DEVAN NAIR AT THE PRESENTATION OF  
THE NEW CABINET BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR LEE KUAN YEW  
ON WEDNESDAY, 2 JANUARY 1985

Addressing the distinguished guests present this morning in the State Room of the Istana, I respond briefly as follows.

I wish the newly sworn Ministers well. I also wish all newly elected Members of Parliament well. Above all, I trust they will all serve our nation and people well.

How our parliamentary system will further develop depends first upon the way the government accepts the role of the loyal opposition, loyal that is to Singapore, her integrity and her survival; and second upon whether, by their words and their conduct, the opposition will demonstrate this loyalty. I hope the next Parliament will see positive signs from both sides of the House.

At present, our economic circumstances appear fair. Our regional political circumstances are also favourable. All ASEAN countries are dedicated to regional cooperation to ensure their social and economic progress. This has not always been so. Now, there are sounds of great stirrings challenging the established order in countries, like the Philippines. We must therefore be aware of the sudden changes that may come upon us.

I wish Godspeed to the Cabinet and you, and to all the elected Members of Parliament. I hope you will all serve the people of Singapore and make their future secure and prosperous.

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