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SPEECH BY THE SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (ENVIRONMENT)
AND IP FOR BUKIT TIMAH, MR. CHOR YEOK ENG, AT THE OPENING
OF THE CRIME PREVENTION EXHIBITION AT SEH CHUAN HIGH SCHOOL
ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1978, AT 6.30 P.M.

In order to continue enjoying a peaceful and crime-free environment, the Hoover Park Residents' Association in conjunction with the Orchard Road Police Station has jointly organised this Crime Prevention Exhibition at the assembly hall of Seh Chuan High School. The combined effort in organising this exhibition clearly indicates the cooperation between the people and the police in their determination to combat crimes for a better living environment. Solely depending on the police to maintain law and order without the residents' self-participation, is inadequate in achieving good results in the protection of their properties. It is important that every member of your association should shoulder their shares to ensure success in the prevention of crimes in the neighbourhood of your estate.

On the occasion of this gathering, let us take a look at the crime rate committed within the area covered by Orchard Road Police Division. Statistic shows that there is a slight increase on a nation-wide basis from 11.3 per cent recorded in 1977 to 11.5 per cent reported in the current year. In analysing the reports, it also indicates that there is a change in the trend of the crimes committed. There is a marked decrease in the number of robbery cases and house-breaking reports. It reduces from 32 per cent in the preceding year to 25 per cent reported in the current year. However, the number of thefts of personal belongings from vehicles, shows a significant rise from 23.5 per cent in 1977 to 33.5 per cent in 1978. The majority of these cases reported was due to the carelessness on the part of the owners for failing to secure their belongings in the boot compartments. It is therefore my appeal to you that valuable

belongings left2/-

belongings left in your vehicles, should be kept in less conspicuous spots such as the boot or the glove-compartments which can be securely locked. The exposure of valuable belongings on the seats frequently attracts crimes and is the main cause attributing to the increase in this category of thefts. Unnecessary loss of properties can be prevented.

Crime exists almost in every country all over the world. The difference is the number of cases and the seriousness of these cases. But let it be serious cases or minor offences, the investigation on the occurrence of each case lies with the police. Based on the present divisional set-up, the police department is not only responsible for the investigation of criminal cases but also undertakes the maintenance of law and order. The investigation of a criminal case is a tedious process from facts finding to the conviction of the culprit before it is considered "completed". Judging from the incidents in the past, it is not an easy task to be in the police profession. The work performed by them in the prevention of crimes needs our support and respect.

I hereby declare the exhibition open.

DECEMBER 16, 1978
