

21 OCT 1980

SPEECH BY MR FONG SIP CHEE, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO
THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR AT THE GRADUATION PARADE FOR 5TH
BATCH OF OFFICER-CADETS AND 20TH INTAKE OF PNS(F) SCs/VCS
ON 16 OCT 80 AT 1730 HRS AT THE POLICE ACADEMY.

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This Parade marks the graduation of the 5th batch of 100 full-time Police National Service Officer-Cadets and the 20th Intake of 461 PNSF personnel.

I need hardly to describe your feeling of pride and achievement, for, 16 years ago, I was among the ranks on a parade square and went through the military rituals of a passing-out parade.

But more than the feeling of pride and achievement, it is the sense of purpose and the dedication to your duty which will finally give you the satisfaction of reward. Few achievements can claim such direct and almost immediate contribution to the wellbeing of the community at large than your graduation as officers of the law. This is even more praiseworthy in that you do so through National Service.

When the idea of full-time National Service in the Police Force was first mooted, it was prompted more by the need to overcome the shortage of personnel. However, it was the immense advantage, both to the State and the quality of our citizenry, that provided the single most important criteria in launching the scheme.

The police station is a mirror to society's kaleidoscope in a modern democratic state, and every policeman's experience is an unwritten human case book. You will be exposed to a variety of human problems and will come ~~into close~~ contact with the people. You will experience their hope and despair, greed and charity, virtues and vices, and demands and appreciation. Amidst the so many negative aspects of human failings, you will also find the ever present persistent yearn for goodness, the righteousness, law and order, and peace and security.

These are the positive aspects which will give meaning to your endeavour.

You will therefore be looked upon as one whom people can place their trust and confidence. It is for this reason that a police officer's public bearing must be beyond reproach. The badges of rank and the uniform confer on you as much authority as the responsibility to discharge your duties diligently and intelligently, and without your integrity being called into doubts.

A policeman's duty is onerous yet rewarding, taxing, frequently exacting yet challenging. This is exactly what the training you received was intended to prepare you for. The Officer-Cadets who graduate today are the first batch to have undergone a course which covered the entire syllabus that of a regular Inspectors Course. During your 9-month training, you have learnt, like your regular counterparts, the theoretical and practical aspects of police work. Your attachments to the Land Divisions and other units have helped to reinforce what you have been taught. The vigorous stint in the Outward Bound School completed the combination of brawn and brain a policeman must possess, if he is to discharge his duty competently.

The 20th batch of PNSF personnel who are also passing out today have completed 3 months of basic training in the Police Academy. The demands on your performance are no less than the officers. I have every confidence that, like those who graduated before you, you will make as valuable a contribution to the maintenance of law and order in our community.

The Singapore Police Force has a long record of traditions and proud achievements. You are entrusted with the task as keepers of this image. The Force has carved out a distinguished identity among the law enforcement officers in the world. Our police force will have to work within the constraints and peculiarities of our own society, and neither the highly dramatised rough-house feats of the American TV cop nor the

gentelmanly London bobby can alter our environment. You will have to mark out a new dimension in the discharge of your duties, taking cognizance of the fact that we are a multi-racial, multi-cultural and an increasingly more literate and better educated society.

Finally, to all of you, particularly the prize winners, my congratulations for your achievements and the very smart turnout. May you be worthy of your uniform.

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