

(87)

SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES,  
MR. G.G. THOMSON, AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW  
COMBINED MARKET OF THE BOON TECK ROAD HAWKERS  
MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION TODAY, SAT., JUNE 14, 1958.

It is a welcome duty which I have been assigned with the invitation to open your new combined market this afternoon. It is another example of your comradeship and civic sense following your visit to one of our civics courses.

This meeting is on the eve of the return of Mr. Lim Yew Hock, our Chief Minister, from the constitutional talks in London, in which your Adviser, Mr. Chew Swee Kee, who is with us this morning, played his part. The success of that mission is not yet fully understood. The efforts of these five men of Singapore under the constant and courageous leadership of the Chief Minister means the end of the Colony of Singapore and of colonialism as a system of government; and the birth of the State of Singapore with all the power of internal self-government transferred to you and your fellow-citizens of Singapore. This needs a change of emphasis from the negative fighting against colonial status to the positive co-operation in making our self-government worth-while. The need around you for better conditions of living in Singapore proves there are still many major problems ahead of us.

But self-government needs two things from us. Our heart and hearth must be in Singapore. We may speak four languages on our tongue, but we must speak one language from our heart, and that must be a Singapore - a Malayan - heart, not one which beats more vigorously in Peking - or in London. Malaya is now our only Motherland.

The new situation also requires unity - the preaching and the practice of unity. Your title gives the answer - mutual aid - not mutual suspicion, bitterness and hostility. Mutual aid must be our motto for the problems and the years ahead. One problem which affects you as hawkers is the secret society menace which preys on you. Self-government must not make Singapore safe for the secret societies - but safe for the man in the street and safe from the secret societies. Again mutual aid, collective defence, is the answer. And whether we face those who would steal the fruits of self-government from the people in their own selfish or communal interests; or whether we devote all our efforts together to build a Singapore better, happier and more prosperous for us all, the spirit of mutual aid which has brought you as scattered hawkers into a new and common market is the spirit the future of Singapore demands from all of us.

May your efforts be rewarded by better surroundings, better service and better business.

JUNE 14, 1958.

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