

TEXT OF A CIVICS COURSE ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR
OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR. G.C. THOMSON, O.B.E., TO MALAY
WOMEN FROM CHANGI DISTRICT AT 11 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 25, 1958.

The Singapore Mission under the sturdy, democratic leadership of the Chief Minister, has achieved full internal self-government for Singapore as part of Malaya. All the members thought in a Malayan context because they believe Singapore must think Malaya-wards.

Singapore now has two responsibilities.

First, to ourselves to build a more prosperous commercial and increasingly industrial economy to provide the wealth to meet the rising standards of life of our rapidly-growing and increasingly youthful population. But that depends on us, through our elected representatives, to decide what service the Government and the City Council and the District Councils will provide.

The funds must be found from our own resources to allow the Civil Service to provide efficient, economic services for the people with whom they are partners in nation-building.

The election for the District Councils in which you must play your part as voters will be the first Local Government election to the rural areas and bring self-government most closely to you, to the people. Men and women have an equal part to play.

But the second responsibility is to Malaya. Self-government is the opportunity for the people of Singapore to show, in spite of all criticisms, that they are as good Malaysians as any; and that, therefore, there is no reason why merger should not come sooner rather than later. But by our own independent actions we will be judged.

The blame cannot be transferred elsewhere. It is freedom FROM London but TOWARDS Kuala Lumpur - not towards Peking or New Delhi. Those who, in Singapore, now by speech and action and writing show that their thoughts are not first for the welfare of Malaya in a Malayan way are not only weakening self-government now, but delaying the Merdeka through merger which is sought by the All-Party Mission which went to London. Self-government is not an escape from the realities of Malaya to the illusions and day-dreams of ideologies.

It is the courage and determination of an adult, free community to work out its destiny as Malaysians in Malaya for a united Malaya. But not by our protestations but by the fruits of our elections and by the realism of administration in building our welfare State will we be judged by our good neighbours in Malaya and in South-East Asia and in the world.

JUNE 25, 1958.

(Time issued 1230 hours)