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Singapore

30 JUL 1983

Acc No.

Release No.: 20/JUL

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06-4/83/07/15

SPEECH BY MR HO KAH LEONG, PARLIAMENTARY  
SECRETARY (EDUCATION), AT CHUNG CHENG HIGH  
SCHOOL'S 44TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON  
FRIDAY, 15 JUL 83 AT 10.00AM

This morning, I am particularly pleased to be back to my Alma Mater to join you in the celebration of its 44th Anniversary.

Over the past decades, Chung Cheng High School has produced many talented people for the country. Presently serving in different sectors, these old boys and old girls of Chung Cheng are able to contribute what they have learned from the school to the country.

Four years ago, when Chung Cheng High School was chosen by the Ministry of Education as one of the 9 SAP Schools, both the School Management Committee and the members of the staff were cautious not to disappoint the general public who looked forward to the school's progress. The Committee rendered every support to the school in its various improvement projects and the teachers spared no efforts in conducting remedial classes for their pupils and performing extra duties. Their hard work paid off as Chung Cheng High School had done very well in the last year's GCE 'O' level examination. Being a Chinese School all along, Chung Cheng's excellent performance in EL1, which was better than many popular English schools, not only shows that hard work is the key to success but also proves to

parents that the standard of English of Chung Cheng High School is comparable to the best English schools in the Republic. I hope the School Management Committee, staff and pupils of the school will continue to strive for better results in this year's 'O' level examination.

Generally speaking, the SAP schools have better conditions than other secondary schools. Statistics shows that 49 per cent of the teaching staff in the SAP schools are graduates while in the non-SAP schools there are only 19 per cent. The number of pupils in the SAP schools is limited to 25 per class whereas most other secondary schools have 40 pupils. As a SAP school, Chung Cheng has an advantage over other schools - the Chung Cheng pond - the largest artificial pond in a Singapore school, enhances the beauty of the school environment. Strolling, resting, reading or even chit-chatting by the pond-side is a pleasant experience to the pupils. The enchanting environment and dedicated teachers make Chung Cheng a conducive place for learning.

However, owing to the decline in the pupil enrolment in Chinese schools, most of the SAP school pupils will in future be from English-medium schools. Hence, the SAP schools should take the initiative in publicizing their function and in building good rapport with their neighbouring English-medium primary schools. Once parents have a better understanding of the SAP schools, they will be more likely to send their children to these schools.

Finally, may I congratulate Chung Cheng on its 44th Anniversary and wish the school a bright future.

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