

STATEMENT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

The Prime Minister has advised the President to make the following Ministerial appointments as from tomorrow, 11th August.

Dr. Goh Keng Swee will take charge of the Ministry of Defence. After rapid expansion in the last five years, the time has come for consolidation of the progress made. It is necessary to pay special attention to improving terms and conditions of service, particularly in the Staff and Command positions, to make careers with the Defence Forces attractive.

Mr. Pang Tee Pow will be Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence. Mr. J.Y.M. Pillay will be the second (Ag.) Permanent Secretary.

Mr. Ong Pang Boon, Minister for Education, will act as Minister for Home Affairs. He was last in charge of Home Affairs in 1963, and will be able to give the Prime Minister an assessment of the changes since then. The Ministry will now be completely separated from the Ministry of Defence. There is no further need for Police personnel to help in the basic drilling of the Army. The Police Force will be made more effective by better communication, transportation and other electronic equipment for crime prevention and detection.

Schemes of Service will be revised to recruit and retain more intelligent and better educated, and raise the efficiency of the Police Force as a whole. Mr. Tay Seow Huah will be (Ag.) Permanent Secretary of the Ministry. He will also be the Director of Security and Intelligence.

Mr. Ong Peng Boon leaves on the 6th of September, 1970, for year's sabbatical leave as a Visiting Senior Fellow in the Parvin Fellows Programme of Princeton University. A Minister will be appointed to take charge of Home Affairs. Mr. Lim Kim San will take charge of the Ministry of Education.

In the past 11 years, because of the rapid expansion of schools, and a shortage of Administrative Officers, professional Education Officers have had to take over administrative duties to meet the needs of time. All administrative posts now discharged by professional Education Officers will be progressively filled by officers of the Administrative Service. Mr. Kwan Sai Kheong will remain Permanent Secretary and Director of Education. Mr. William Cheng will be (Ag.) Permanent Secretary (Administration), and progressively take over the administrative duties in the Ministry from Mr. Kwan.

In the next few years, several more junior colleges will be built. Then a fair number of our best secondary schools for boys and girls, regardless of whether they are government or government-aided, will revert to single session schools.

It is important that the new junior colleges should be spread and sited to take into account the present and future population densities, and the playing fields and other sports facilities which will be given up by the British Armed Services.

These new junior colleges and secondary schools, being built to replace old ones like Raffles Institution, will have their individual architectural styles. There will be less frequent transfers of principals and senior masters, so that each junior college or secondary school can develop its own identity and character.

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Mr. Hon Sui Sen will take over as Minister for Finance. He has worked closely with Dr. Goh Keng Swee, first as Chairman of the Economic Development Board, and then as President of the Development Bank of Singapore. His appointment will ensure continuity in the policies of the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. G.E. Bogaars will be Permanent Secretary (Economic Development Division) in place of Mr. J.Y.M. Pillay. He will remain Head of the Civil Service.

Three Parliamentary Secretaries, Mr. Sia Kah Hui, Mr. Tang See Chim and Dr. Lee Chiaw Meng, are to be Ministers of State in their respective Ministries.

Inche Mohamed Ghazali bin Ismail will be Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry for Education.

Mr. S. Ramaswamy will retire as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Law. He reaches pensionability this year. However, he remains as M.P. for Potong Pasir.

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