SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. LEE KUAN YEW; AT THE GRADUATION PARADE OF THE 1ST INTAKE OF OFFICER CADETS AND THE 5TH INTAKE OF FULL-TIME POLICE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN AT THE POLICE ACADEMY, ON SATURDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 1976

This parade marks the graduation of the first intake of officer cadets.

You have been selected and trained for nine months. You will have to lead Police National Servicemen who have done three months' training on civics, drill, physical training and elementary law, followed by another three months of on-the-job training with experienced policemen.

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In the 16 months since July 1975 when the first batch of 211 started training, the Police National Servicemen have dealt with 1,630 cases. They have made 2,314 arrests, leading to 437 convictions for criminal offences. But policing does not mean merely arrests and convictions. It is upholding orderly life, a situation where people can go about their business and pleasure in peace and safety.

Each year 2,000 Police National Servicemen will join the force in four intakes of 500 each. They will serve 2 years. Each year 100 HSC graduates are selected as Officer Cadets. They will serve 2 1/2 years. By January 1978, we shall have 4,000 Police National Servicemen (36% as Special Constables and 64% as Vigilantes) and 300 Officers.

Each year 2,000 Police National Servicemen (Special Constables and Vigilantes), 100 Officers, will go into reserves. They will do reserve duties, thus adding to Police manpower.

However, it is the impact of these men with Police Force training, discipline and powers spread all over Singapore that will be most significant. Grouped in areas where they live, they will be a natural security force for each housing estate, for each residential high-rise, and for the office, shopping and warehousing areas near their homes. Their crime prevention capacity, the deterrent effect of their presence, will be considerable.

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Finally, let me compliment on your smart turnout. As the first batch Police National Service Officers, you have a special responsibility to live up to the expectations we have placed on you.