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**SPEECH BY MR ONG TENG CHEONG, MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS,
AT THE COMBINED GRADUATION PARADE OF REGULAR TRAINEE
POLICE CONSTABLES AND THE 14TH INTAKE OF FULL-TIME POLICE
NATIONAL SERVICEMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 10 JANUARY 1979
AT 5.45 PM AT THE POLICE ACADEMY**

Since the introduction of full-time police national service in July 1975, the Police has received a fresh intake each quarter of about 500 special constables and vigilantes. This build-up has been so rapid that today we are witnessing the passing out of the 14th batch of full-time servicemen who have successfully completed three months of basic training at the Police Academy.

There are, at this moment, about 4,300 officers and men performing active full-time national service in the Police. More than half of this number have progressed into the reserves since October 1977. Reservist duty has hitherto meant putting in four hours of patrol and station duty, twice a month after normal working hours; no different, in other words, from part-time Police national service.

From 15th January this year, full-time Police national servicemen who have progressed into the reserve will come under a new scheme where they will be deployed to do day-time patrols between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the various HDB housing estates. In the initial year they will be required to do 14 days of duty in two half-yearly stints of seven days each. However, the number of days of duty which they are required to perform will be reduced progressively over the ten years of their reserve service.

Part-time national servicemen in the Special Constabulary and in the Community Security Force, as you know, already supplement the regular Police during the night. With the

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introduction of the new scheme, Police presence on the ground during the day will also be augmented. Therefore, this scheme should have a significant impact on the containment of crime in the State.

While I dwell on the Police national service, I have not failed to note that a total of 160 men and women of the regular constabulary, as well as 18 and 34 members respectively of the PSA Police and SATS Auxiliary Police, are also graduating today.

I am happy to note that among you are nine former full-time national servicemen who have opted to join the regular force. For you a specially tailored conversion course of three months' duration has been drawn up. This compares with the full six months' basic course for those who have not acquired the basic training and experience which you already have in full-time national service.

May I remind all of you who are graduating today that when you put on your uniform you will be looked upon as the symbol of law and order. Our public is a sophisticated and discriminating one and they will expect only the best from you. You must, therefore, bear this in mind and do all you can to foster their goodwill and co-operation. The public regard for the Police is improving. If you cannot do anything to enhance the image, then you must certainly do nothing to injure it. Remember that you will always be in the eyes of the public and whatever you do or don't do will be noticed. The impressions of the Police is made up of what one sees and observes of the individual officer, so do ensure that you are at your personal best at all times.

I have no doubt that you will find your future in the police both challenging and interesting. I take this opportunity to wish you and your fellow servicemen and women the very best in your career and service with the Force.