

# SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

PUBLICITY DIVISION · MINISTRY OF CULTURE · CITY HALL SINGAPORE 6

National Archives and  
Records Centre, Singapore.

MG/JUN/26/78(LABOUR)

1 JUL 1978

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR, MR. SIA KAH HUI, AT THE 20TH INTAKE VIGILANTE CORPS' PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE POLICE ACADEMY ON SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1978 AT 5.30 P.M.

Acc. No. NARC  
78 | 0068 | 57

I am pleased to have been invited to officiate at this Vigilante Corps' Passing-Out Parade this evening. To the 2,542 national servicemen of the 20th intake of the vigilante corps, I hope this is a proud moment for you and one you have been waiting for. The six months' basic course which you have just completed has afforded you only the rudiments of discipline training. Henceforth you will be selected, according to your aptitudes, to serve in the various components of the corps. Those selected as senior leader trainees will continue the second stage of the course for another period of six months while the others will be deployed and trained for services in the community security force, the lifeguard unit, and in the cultural, marine and sports units. Subsequently all of you will receive training on fire-fighting, rescue, first-aid and other related skills for a civil defence role.

The corps has now reached a strength of 48,000 men. To provide effective leadership for a force of this size and to continue to improve performance of men on the ground, it is necessary to upgrade further the standard and quality of the officers in command. More of them must come from the ranks of national servicemen to complement the regular officers and part-time instructors. These senior officers will have the opportunity to attend courses to develop their leadership qualities. More responsibilities will then be placed upon their shoulders. I hope more of you, especially those with the necessary qualifications and potentials, will come forth and be identified for selection and training as future leaders of the corps. While more demand will be placed on your ability and time, I hope you will

not shrink .....2/-

not shrink from this responsibility and answer positively to the call to serve our nation.

With the implementation of The Enlistment (Loss of Salary and Wages Re-imbusement) Regulations 1978 which came into operation on April 28, 1978, you will all be glad to know that all national service members of the vigilante corps are now entitled to make-up pay. Henceforth there will be no loss of earnings for those who are required to do in-camp training. This will serve to minimise the sacrifice you have had to make and hopefully will lead to a more positive attitude towards in-camp training and your contribution to the nation.

Skills related to civil defence will also have to be enhanced and the present facilities available at Civil Defence School are considered inadequate. A new site has been made available for a larger school to accommodate more men than the present premises. I am happy to say that the new camp at Nee Soon is nearing completion. With its completion by the end of the year, it will be able to accommodate 500 men and enable the corps to intensify its training programmes to cope with the growing size of the corps.

I wish to congratulate all of you on your splendid turn out this evening. Special mention must be made of those who have been awarded certificates of merit for their high standards of performance. Finally, I wish all of you success in your future endeavours.

---