

3 DEC 1982

Singapore Government

**PRESS RELEASE**

Information Division, Ministry of Culture, City Hall, Singapore 0617 • TEL: 3378191 ext 352, 353, 354 / 3362207 / 3362271

15-4/82/11/25

**SPEECH BY MR TEO CHONG TEE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(SOCIAL AFFAIRS), AT THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND DANCE  
ORGANISED BY THE AIR CARGO CLUB SINGAPORE AT THE DYNASTY  
HOTEL, 320 ORCHARD ROAD, ON THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 1982, AT 8.00 PM**

The general gloom that hangs over the aviation industry has yet to lift. In fact, through press reports, we continue hearing of the heavy financial losses incurred by airlines worldwide. This must surely have its effect on our local aviation industry. Air cargo growth, in particular, cannot escape the reality of this worldwide recession. Consequently, it is not surprising that our planners have forecast a slower growth in air cargo movements through Singapore in spite of the impressive growth air cargo had achieved over the last few years.

This reality, however, should be transformed into an opportunity for all the people involved in the aviation industry. This can be our opportunity if we continue to be committed to upgrading the quality of our service and improving our professionalism through proper training, education and improvements in equipment handling and facilities used. It is a time when we should not sit back and wait for 'doomsday' to come and choose to believe that what is happening is beyond our control and therefore nothing can be done about it.

I am confident, however, that this will not be the route you will be taking. For all of you to have worked so hard to be where you are today, this is simply an unacceptable way to react. I am sure that all of you will instead adopt a pragmatic outlook and seize this opportunity to consolidate your position and work collectively to overcome whatever problems the world economy inflicts on your airlines.

This is an opportune time for each one of you in the cargo industry to examine ways and means of improving your present system of operations, streamlining existing procedures and also stepping up mechanisation and computerisation in order to meet the present trend

of increasing .....2/-

of increasing productivity. Productivity improvement should and must be viewed as an impetus to make your business viable and for some areas even to ensure survival.

As a service-oriented industry, the key to your success will depend very much upon how committed and how competent your staff is and how well they have been trained to do their job - not only effectively and efficiently but also courteously. Proper training and conscious efforts to develop your manpower resources must never be overlooked. While you may not achieve immediate gain from the time and money spent, the long term benefit will soon be realised particularly if you are keen to upgrade the professionalism of your business and that of the industry in general. By upgrading the level of your professionalism, Singapore's image as a main transshipment and distribution centre for air cargo movement would be further enhanced. The confidence of shippers and consignees both in Singapore and worldwide, would be further strengthened if you have all been prepared all this while. When the silver lining of the increased volume comes about, you will be there to reap the fruits of your labour.

It is therefore appropriate that the Air Cargo Club Singapore should be actively organising various activities, both in terms of training of product knowledge courses, practical handling and even recreational and social activities, like this evening's function to foster better co-operation and better relationship amongst fellow workers in the same industry.

On the occasion of the 1st Anniversary celebration of the Air Cargo Club Singapore, may I extend to you my congratulations and wish you every success in all your future endeavours.

\*\*\*\*\*