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# PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY MR TEO CHONG TEE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS), AT THE NATIONAL  
SERVICEMEN SEND-OFF PARTY AT CHANGI COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ON TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 1984 AT 9.00 AM

First, let me say how happy I am to have been invited to speak to you at the National Servicemen send-off party. Today's send-off party is especially held in your honour and marks a new chapter of your lives. From today, you will belong to a very special and important group of people on whom Singapore's national security depends.

It is gratifying to note that since the implementation of National Service in 1967, it has been fully accepted by all young Singaporeans as part of a natural process of growing up in Singapore. I am sure by now, all of you already have some idea of what national service is all about. Today, it is now your turn to join the ranks of the military as a National Serviceman.

Your camp life, in which Singaporeans of diverse linguistic, religions, racial and social backgrounds mix freely, will stand you in good stead later on in life. Your stint in the army will help you broaden your horizons and make you a more disciplined, more tolerant, more understanding, more open and more enterprising person. In short, you will become a mature person.

Singaporeans are a peace-loving people. We treasure the standard of living and lifestyle we have. We know that to keep it this way and to continue to progress

and prosper, we must constantly work at maintaining peace. We also know that maintaining peace requires a great deal of collective effort from us, and as a nation, we are determined to accord it the priority and the attention it deserves.

As a national serviceman, you will be contributing your share to this collective effort. You can only claim that you are doing your part if you take military training seriously. Only then will you be able to undertake effectively whatever military duties assigned to you later, be it as a rifleman, a cook, a section leader or a mechanic. You will find that no matter what the task is, doing it well is of vital importance. This can be achieved by training conscientiously, practising your individual military skills and learning how to work with others as a fighting team. In the process, you will be helping to build up a credible military defence force that can deter any potential adversary. You can then also take pride in having played a part in maintaining the peace that we enjoy, just as the many thousands of other national servicemen have done before you.

May I now wish you all the best as you commence your service in the national defence of your country.

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