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SPEECH BY DR TAY ENG SOON, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION
TO RIVER VALLEY ZONE 'A' R.C. FIRST ANNIVERSARY DINNER
HELD AT BLOCK 6 MARGARET DRIVE ON SATURDAY, 9 MAY '81 AT 7.30 PM

First of all, I want to congratulate our RC management committee for organising this dinner to commemorate the First Anniversary of the founding of the RC in Margaret Drive. When our RC was established in April last year with the help of our previous MP Dr Tan Eng Liang, its committee members were all new. Like any new RC, the management committee **had to** learn how to reach out to the residents and draw them out to take part in the activities that it planned. Our RC under its able leaders managed to plan and carry out several successful programmes including a picnic in the Southern Islands. Tonight's dinner and the support given to it by the residents of Margaret Drive is a strong testimony to the success of the RC management committee in reaching out to the residents and establishing contact with them. I offer them *mysincere* congratulations.

What is the meaning and importance of residents' committees to those who live in housing estates such as ours? The same question can be asked in another way to give us the answer. I will put it this way. What is the importance and value of good neighbourliness and a strong sense of community spirit to the residents? The answer is clear to all. Good neighbours will make our lives more pleasant and enjoyable. A strong sense of community spirit will make our community a safer, more peaceful and a cleaner place to live in.

The purpose of the RC is to promote good neighbourliness and community spirit through activities that will involve families, young people and all who live in our area. For this reason, our RC deserves your full support in everyway. You

should try .

should try to join in on every activity they plan. You can even organise activities that you like through their help. In support ing our you will be helping your community and yourself.

While on the subject of good neighbourliness, I have observed during my door-to-door visits to your homes over the past four months that the majority of our residents are contented and get on well with their neighbours. This is a precious quality which I want to encourage. However, from time to time, I have received complaints that inconsiderate residents upstairs throw their rubbish carelessly out of their windows. This dirties the flats of those living below. I strongly deplore this kind of vandalism and would ask you to report such irresponsible people to me or to your RC for further action if you see them do it. The same consideration should also apply to keeping our estate clean. Every piece of paper or wrapper that we throw carelessly around means that someone else has to pick it up. It is much easier for everyone to make that small effort to throw the rubbish into a nearby bin. We are cultivating these good habits not just for our own sake. We are doing it also for our children's sake. A child cannot learn to be clean and tidy if his parents are dirty and careless. Our children learn from what they see us do and not what they hear us say to them.

I have the permission of PHO to open an RC Centre in our area. This Centre will be located in the ground floor of one of the blocks. It will be large enough for meetings, indoor games like table tennis, cooking classes, tuition classes, etc. Being so far away from our River Valley Community Centre, the new Centre provide you with some of the facilities of a Community Centre.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr Chin Kon Yuen the First RC Chairman who is retiring because he is moving to another area. He has provided the RC with excellent leadership. I want to thank representatives from River Valley CCC and CCMC coming to support function tonight. I want also to thank Mr Ang Hai Phor for his very generous donation to the RC encourage them further in the work. To all the members of the RC management community including its new chairman Mr Anthony, I wish you a very active and new year ahead.

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