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Singapore Government

**PRESS RELEASE**

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SPEECH BY DR. TAY ENG SOON, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION  
AT THE RIVER VALLEY CONSTITUENCY 18TH NATIONAL DAY DINNER AT  
THE RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE ON FRIDAY,  
5 AUGUST 1983 AT 7.30 PM

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Tonight's National Day Dinner is a historic one for River Valley Constituency. This **is because** this will be the **last** National Day Dinner to **be** held in this Community Centre. Next year, unless there are unforeseen circumstances, we should **celebrate** National Day at our new **community centre** which is being built on River Valley Road.

It is appropriate at an occasion like this to **remember** all those who have pioneered to build up this Community Centre. Tonight, we are very happy that Dr. Tan Eng Liang, the former MP for River Valley can **be** present with us. We have also invited past members of the CCC and **CCMC**. They have contributed greatly to our Community Centre as well as to our constituency. We **take** this opportunity to thank them and to honour them for what they have done. There are others who also contributed in the past. They were men **like** Mr Lim Cheng Lock, the first MP for River Valley and Mr Low Guan Onn. They were **our** early pioneers. Tonight **we pay tribute to them** for the sacrifices they made for the good of **our** community and our nation.

National **Day** is a time for us to remember **our** leaders and all those who have laboured to build Singapore. **We** started as a non-nation. There was terrible poverty and unemployment. We had political and communal unrest. Singapore was a country with little hope or future when we

became independent. Many of you who are watching the "Making of a Nation" **series** on **television** can see clearly now bad the conditions were 20 years ago.

But under the leadership of a dedicated and honest government, our people have worked hard and achieved a great deal. Today we have achieved peace, security and prosperity. At the recent National RC **Seminar**, Mr. Goh Chok **Tong raised** the slogan: 'Keep **Singapore** Going.' This must become the **aspiration** and goal of our next generation of leaders and people. Our task must be to preserve what has been **achieved** and to build upon it for the sake of our children.

Therefore, as we celebrate our National day, let me ask each one of you present to **renew** your dedication and loyalty to Singapore. The best way we can do so is to give **of** our best in whatever we do - whether **this** is at work, in our schools, in our homes or in our community.

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