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SPEECH BY PRESIDENT WEE KIM WEE
AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF
THE 1988 PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
AT THE ISTANA ON FRIDAY, 26 AUGUST 1988

This evening, I have great pleasure in congratulating our new President's Scholars on their fine achievements. They have done themselves proud. Their families, friends, teachers and the rest of the nation also share in their pride.

The five scholars, two girls and three boys, were chosen on the basis of their outstanding academic performance, extra-curricular activities as well as their character and qualities of leadership. All are bilingual.

Miss Goh Li Meng and Mr Patrick Tan Boon Ooi are now studying Medicine: Miss Goh at the National University of Singapore and Mr Tan at Harvard University, USA. Mr Teh Laik Woon and Miss Valerie Thean Pik Yuen have been nominated for the Overseas Merit Scholarships. Mr Teh will read Natural Sciences at Trinity Hall, Cambridge and Miss Thean will read Law at Downing College, Cambridge, in the United Kingdom. The fifth scholar, Mr Chan Chun Sing, has been nominated for the SAF Overseas Scholarship. Mr Chan will be studying Economics at Christ's College, Cambridge, in the United Kingdom.

The President's Scholarship is the premier award to which the best of our students aspire. It is the most prestigious scholarship awarded by the Public Service Commission. Standards are stringent and few are chosen each year. Those who qualify must exhibit all-round excellence and a commitment to serve.

From their educational records, these outstanding young people are consistently high achievers. What they have attained is no flash-in-the-pan, but the result of consistent hard work. Credit must surely be shared with those who gave them their support - families, teachers and friends. But above all, they must have had within them the strong desire to excel or they would not have made it.

Excellence is the product of this desire worked out through a combination of discipline, dedication and due diligence. The quest for excellence is for sustained high performance, not the occasional flash of brilliance. The consistency of effort our scholars have shown in their work and studies is most admirable. It is a trait we hope all Singaporeans will emulate.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our five scholars again. As long as they continue to carry with them the 'spirit of excellence', I am sure they will give us cause to be proud of them.

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