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SPEECH BY DR YEO NING HONG, MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE  
AT THE SAFRA 9TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND DANCE AT NEPTUNE  
THEATRE RESTAURANT ON SUNDAY, 12 JULY 1981 AT 7.30 PM.

I am pleased to be with you here tonight for the 9th SAFRA Anniversary Dinner.

The SAF Reservists Association was formed with the primary objective of strengthening the bonds of comradeship that exists among fellow reservists. These bonds were fostered among our soldiers during the days when they were in national service together. The sense of pride of belonging to the SAF when these men were in uniform must be sustained and built upon even when the men have RODEd and have gone into the reserve. Our reservists are all fully trained soldiers who are combat-ready to take up arms in the defence of our nation and people. They are men that our nation can depend on; men that our nation can be proud of.

Collectively, the reservists represent a very important national resource and make a vital contribution to the strength and stability of our country.

The Ministry of Defence is fully conscious of this and has spared no effort in continuously upgrading the standard of our training for our reservist officers and men.

On its part, the SAF Reservists Association can play a vital role in assisting MINDEF in its objective of keeping our reservists fighting fit and combat-ready at all times. They can provide both the place and the opportunity for reservist officers and men to come together. Greater emphasis can be made by SAFRA in encouraging more participation in military related activities. The growing enthusiasm among our reservists for the martial arts such as Kendo, Tae Kwan Do,

Karate and ..... /2.

Karate and Kung Fu, should also be encouraged. Keep-fit activities that would assist in individual physical proficiency should also be emphasised.

Consistent with our objective of building upon the comradeship and esprit de corps that existed in the various units and formations in the national service, SAFRA would in future organise its programmes in collaboration with the various reserve units and formations. This would encourage group participation of our reservists through the reserve units and formations, and add on to the cohesion of continuing friendship and service together, in sections, platoons, companies and battalions. A healthy spirit of inter-unit and inter-formation rivalry will be encouraged through organised games and competitions.

With our reservist population growing both in terms of numbers and quality, the role of the SAF Reservists Association must also keep pace. Future SAFRA Clubhouses will be built to a standard that would be commensurate with the growing affluence of our population. These new clubhouses will have the atmosphere and facilities that our reservists can be proud of, with restaurants, gymnasiums, sauna baths, games rooms and other activity centres currently available only at private clubs. In a physical way, these clubhouses will reflect the growing strength and higher standard of our reservists.

It remains for me now to wish all of you a very pleasant and enjoyable evening.

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