

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AT THE PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY OF THE FEDERATION MILITARY COLLEGE ON THURSDAY 25TH NOVEMBER, 1965

I am very happy to be here today and to give away the prizes. I had wanted very much to attend this occasion of the Federation Military College last year but owing to unavoidable circumstances I was not able to do so. However, for the last several years, ever since I become Minister of Defence in 1957 I have been following very closely the progress of this College year after year in both fields of studies and sports. The Secretary of Defence who is the Chairman of the Board of Governors of this College has been keeping me informed of the activities of the College and its achievements.

I have always been very happy and delighted to note the tremendous rate of success that has been achieved by this College, both in the academic field and in the field of sports. This reflects the fact that the military staff and the teachers have been putting extremely hard work for the College and the students are also working equally hard and co-operating with the staff. Indeed, ever since it was established this College has always been in safe keeping. I would like to express my sincere congratulations to all those who have been responsible for the success of this College and for its great achievements in the past.

For those of you who are prize winners, to you today, I wish to offer my congratulations for your success and for your achievements. I hope you will continue to work hard and to build on the success that you have so far achieved. To the others I wish to say, do not be discouraged but continue to work hard and try to excel your friends in the future. There is no doubt that a College like this which maintains a high standard of discipline and gives equal emphasis to academic as well as sporting activities and encourages the students in the true spirit of real competition has a great part to play in the life of our nation.

Our young nation needs more and more capable and intelligent young men to be its' leaders in the various fields of activities. Our Armed Forces are being expanded very rapidly. The Cadet Wing of the College has in fact been training a large number of officers and short service commission officers for the Army and for the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

This College has a high reputation not only among Government departments but also in the business circles. Therefore all of you, if you do your work well and pass your examinations are assured of a bright future. However, I am given to understand that in the Cadet Wing of the College although the students are very successful at games, it has been a tendency among some of them to pay less attention to the academic work. And those of you who are in this category I would like to remind you that although health and physical fitness are important, particularly in your career in the Armed Forces but it is necessary for you to have the academic qualifications, the knowledge and the training to enable you to have a start in your career.

All of you Cadets here have a difficult and challenging task ahead of you as our country is still facing Indonesian confrontation. The officers who have graduated from this College before you have maintained a high tradition and have played a great part in the defence of our country and I therefore look forward to you to maintain the same high standard. I know there is not much money in a career in the Armed Forces just as in the Public Service but it is a great and inspiring task as you are serving our country and our people. If you do your work in the right spirit you will get a great satisfaction.

I am told that in the Cadet Wing there are two Brunei and eight Singapore cadets. I would like to say to them that they should make full use of the facilities available here so that when they graduate they will be of service to their country which are our neighbours.

I am so pleased to note that from next year it is proposed to have a re-organisation of the regular Cadet Training cycle. In this re-organisation, there will be a concentration of academic effects on Term 2 to Term 5 and military training from the First and the last Terms. I hope and trust that with this re-organisation the Cadet Wing will be able to produce even better results in future years. Now, with regard to the Boys' Wing. I am also pleased to note that there is an increasing number of boys seeking admission into this Wing. This undoubtedly reflects the growing reputation of this College. I am happy to hear that the Boys' Wing has continued to achieve high rate of success in the academic field as can be seen from the continually high standard of passes in the Cambridge School Certificate and the Malaysian Certificate of Education as well as in Higher School Certificate. The Cambridge results for 1964/65 and the Higher School Certificate results in the various certificates examination have been the best ever obtained by the College. Last year there were 25 boys who succeeded in getting scholarships and have joined various universities while 27 boys were selected for officer cadet training. In this con-

nection I would like to pay a special tribute to Mr. S.C. Wallwork, the previous Director of Studies. Under Mr. Wallwork's guidance and devoted service the College has been able to achieve such a high degree of success in the academic field year after year for the last several years. I would like therefore to place on record the appreciation, the Government has for the services that he has rendered to the College and to the country.

Before I conclude, I would like to say how happy I am to see that expansion of this College to meet the requirements of our expanding Armed Forces has been completed. And I do hope that his College will continue to fulfil the role for which it was founded, to train leaders for our country both in the military and in other fields.

Malaysia as I said, is a young nation. We have people of various racial origins. It is of the utmost importance that our people of all races should continue to live in peace, harmony and goodwill and should regard themselves as members of one nation. It is important that you who are still at school should cultivate this spirit of unity while you live and work together. Students of various races should cultivate the spirit of unity and solidarity so that when you take your places as leaders of our country in the years to come, you will be able to play your part in promoting the aim and aspiration of our people to build a strong, united and happy nation. Malaysia is a developing country, is a country of opportunities. We are expanding in all the fields of our national lives and therefore we require as I said, leaders who have a world-balanced training as you all have had in this College. Therefore I ask you all students of this College to work hard and prepare yourselves fully for the task that you have before you. You should make full use of the opportunities now given to you at this College so that you will be fully equipped to serve your country loyally in whatever field of activity you choose for yourself. Our young nation looks towards the young men and women of today to link to the path of unity, happiness and prosperity. I wish all of you Cadets and others Good luck in all your future activities.