

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE OUTWARD BOUND TRUST AT ITS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT BANGUNAN GETAH ASLI
ON 17TH AUGUST 1967

We meet once again in the luxurious surroundings of this Board Room in Bangunan Getah Asli and it is traditional at this time that I should address you and review and comment on the work of the Trust and the School during the year which has passed.

Although the number of trainees attending courses at our School was only 431 compared with 481 for 1965 the calibre of the 431 young men was of a high standard and it has been a most successful year. To run the School economically a minimum of 500 trainees per year is necessary and the Management Committee have organised a publicity drive in an endeavour to achieve this number during the current year. In fact I understand that up to Course 124 which is due to end in a few days time, some 50 more trainees have attended the School this year when compared with the corresponding period of last year.

As you all know the primary purpose of the Outward Bound School is to provide young men from all walks of life with opportunities to test and develop their capacities of character and physique.

In a developing nation such as ours, there is a great need to develop our future leaders and while many young men have a natural instinct for leadership, without training, it is impossible to bring out their best qualities.

During the short duration of a course at the school, we do not attempt to produce leaders but our courses are designed to stimulate in our young men, a challenging perspective of their individual capabilities, a sense of enterprise, initiative and self-reliance and an ability to differentiate between good and bad leaders. Our young nation, in addition to needing good leaders requires good followers also.

The work therefore being done by the School is of great importance and I take this opportunity of appealing once again to all concerned, both Government and Private bodies to make greater use of the excellent training facilities which the School provides.

The Management Committee is responsible for running the School and under the Chairmanship of the Vice President, Encik V.M. Hutson, met regularly during the year to deal with the many administrative and other problems which require attention. I am sure that all members will join me in expressing appreciation of their good work.

With the exception of the Warden, the staff at the School have been completely Malayanised and we are indeed fortunate in having a group of enthusiastic young men with the dedication and other qualities necessary for this important work. I would like to express our thanks to the Warden and the staff for the high degree of efficiency with which they have carried on their work

throughout the year.

The usual ten courses were run at the School with an average attendance of 43. This falls far short of the basic 50 per course which the School needs to break even.

The breakdown by industries of the various sponsors who sent 431 boys to the School during the year compared with the figures for the past three years is as follows:-

| | No. of Trainees | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 |
| Government & Public Bodies | 346 | 280 | 267 |
| Commerce | 87 | 107 | 90 |
| Rubber Industry | 53 | 47 | 29 |
| Tin Industry | 18 | 9 | 15 |
| Shipping | 15 | 8 | 15 |
| Private | 8 | 22 | 9 |
| Trust Scholarships to Vigilante Corp Personnel | - | 8 | 6 |
| | <u>527</u> | <u>481</u> | <u>431</u> |

Last year I was very pleased to note the great increase in the number of privately sponsored trainees and I said that I hoped that still more parents would give their sons a chance to test their capabilities before starting out in adult life. It is disappointing to note that this source of sponsorship had dropped off, so once again I appeal to parents to give their sons this chance. In my message in the new brochure which has been produced by the Management Committee I have suggested that the period while youngsters are waiting for their School Certificate results could not be more gainfully employed than by their attending a course at the Outward Bound School.

The audited accounts for the year have been in your possession for some time and you will have had an opportunity of studying these. It will be noted that there is again an excess of school expenditure over school income. The overall position for the year has resulted in a deficit of \$9,395/-.

In my last report I mentioned that the Management Committee had reluctantly decided to increase the fees for a course from \$275/- to \$300/-. The increase was introduced from the 1st July 1966 and was applied to all course bookings after that date. As most bookings are made early in the year, the increase did not have any marked effect on last year's figures but I am pleased to be able to report that for the first five months of 1967, the financial position has shown a healthy improvement and our income is showing a slight edge over expenditure.

At \$300/- per student the fee for a course is still the lowest of any Outward Bound School in the world and when we consider that this amounts to only \$12/- per day and covers the cost of accommodation, meals, equipment and the excellent training which is imparted, it is truly very good value.

In spite of the poor financial position last year, the Trust again provided a scholarship to the students union of the Serdang Agricultural College and I am

pleased to note in addition that further six scholarships from the funds collected in connection with the Trust's Tenth Anniversary Celebrations in 1965, were awarded to members of the Vigilante Corps making a grand total of 14 such scholarships.

During the year, the Management Committee received a request from Sabah to run one course a year over there. Very serious consideration was given to this proposal which eventually with great reluctance the Committee had to turn down because the cost of moving the staff and equipment would have been very high. Instead a successful approach was made to Messrs. Straits Steamship Co. Ltd. who generously agreed to provide 6 free passages per year to and from Singapore to boys from Sabah who wish to attend the school.

It is also pleasing to note from the records that there was one privately sponsored trainee from the Philippines. Trainees from other countries are always welcome and I understand that as a result of the efforts of Encik D.A. Clayton, a member of the Management Committee, there is a possibility of two trainees per course attending in 1968 from the Brunei Police.

For some time past there has been a great need for improved medical and sick bay facilities at the School. Not that the standard of health has shown any deterioration but if a trainee was sick, he had to be bedded down in the dormitory or sent to hospital. I am sure therefore that you will all wish to join me in expressing thanks to Messrs. Rothmans of Pall Mall, who recently provided the funds necessary to build a first class sick bay at the School, where the rare cases of sickness which occur can be looked after satisfactorily and from which much better service can be given to people from the surrounding kampongs who use the facilities provided by the School.

I think you will agree that the Outward Bound Trust is well managed but its continued success can be achieved only through increased public support and I appeal once again to all concerned to support the School so that we may achieve our target figure of 500 per year. There is an excellent new brochure which has been prepared by the Management Committee setting down clearly the objects of the Trust and full particulars of the course, their cost and other relevant information. These have had wide circulation already and there are plenty more copies available with the Secretaries if any of you require them. The Warden is presently touring the country between courses giving talks to service clubs and schools and meeting prospective sponsors to publicise the School.

Recently I outlined what I consider to be the four essential principles which must be cultivated by Malaysians if our country is to forge ahead and become a really prosperous nation.

The principles are:-

Dedication.

Determination and courage.

Honesty.

The quality of tolerance.

One of the most valuable assets of any nation is its youth and it is the responsibility of the older members of the community to direct and encourage the great potentials of our nation's youth into the correct channels so that they in due

time may consolidate our gains and protect them from destruction.

The Alliance Government has done and continues to do everything possible to develop the nation along the right lines and our country already enjoys a reputation through-out the free world as a progressive and stable nation.

But there are those, mercifully only a selfish minority, who resort to irresponsible and undemocratic methods to threaten the sovereignty and security which for the past 10 years we have been at pains to make absolutely safe from both internal and external aggression.

If we, the elders give our youth every opportunity to cultivate the four essential principles which I have outlined, there will be a bright future, a future full of hope and promise, of a good, happy and wholesome life for ourselves, our children and our children's children.

The Outward Bound Trust is playing an important part in moulding our youth into the first class citizens we need so much and its motto 'To Strive, and Not to Yield' is closely related to the essential principles of dedication, determination and courage, honesty and the quality of tolerance.

It follows therefore that all those who have the future welfare of our nation at heart should support the Outward Bound trust to the fullest possible extent. They should see to it that as many of our young men as possible are given an opportunity to attend one of its courses, so that they may be made aware of the great responsibilities which face them. Responsibilities towards their families, their fellow citizens, the Government and towards their country.

Finally, I would like to thank Messrs. Barlow & Co. (Malaya) Ltd., the Secretaries and Treasurers, for their efficient service over the year.