



OPENING ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SAF VETERANS' LEAGUE, BRIGADIER-GENERAL (RET) WINSTON TOH, AT THE *KONFRONTASI* MEMORIAL CEREMONY ON 10 MARCH 2018, 1805HRS

LG (Ret) Winston Choo, Defence Attaché, Family of victims and survivors, men of SAF 1 SIR and 2 SIR, Home Team veterans, SAFVL veterans, Nexus management, Loyang View Secondary School, HQ NCC, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Thank you for your presence today. A day, that may be an ordinary one to many, but very significant to some of you amongst us this evening. We gather here, as we have done so for the past four years, to remember the innocent lives lost, and honour our comrades who fought valiantly during *Konfrontasi*.

2. On 10 March 1965, a most deadly attack took place at the MacDonald House nearby, where a bomb planted by saboteurs exploded. On that day, 3 people died and 33 more were injured. During this dark period, more than 40 terror attacks on civilians were carried out throughout our homeland Singapore.

3. The SAF Veterans' League successfully petitioned for this memorial 5 years ago in 2014, to remember the courage, efforts and sacrifices of those who had fought to defend us during *Konfrontasi*. Veterans from the First and Second Battalions, Singapore Infantry Regiment (SIR), some of whom are present here today. Veterans from the Home Team, and ordinary Singaporeans who had served with the Singapore Volunteer Corps, the Singapore Naval Volunteer Force, and the Vigilante Corps. We thank all of you for your commitment and service to our country.

4. We also look forward to the contribution of our succeeding generations of Singaporeans. The presence of our younger generation here today, demonstrate the same courage and resolve to do all they can to safeguard Singapore's future. Never again must we let something like *Konfrontasi* happen to us.

5. The saying goes, "Time heals all wounds". It may be so for some, but not for those who have lost loved ones and comrades in arms. The threats and complex challenges we face today, target the hearts and minds of our people. We must continue to strengthen Total Defence. More than ever before, we must all play our part, to build a nation that is united and resilient. We must be prepared for what may come our way. Allow me to echo this year's Total Defence theme "Together We Keep Singapore Strong". We have done so in the past, and we can do it again, **TOGETHER!**

6. Thank you.