

- 7 JUL 1986

PRESS RELEASE

Information Division, Ministry of Communications & Information, City Hall, Singapore 0617 - Tel. 3307269 / 3307270 / 3307271

86-JS-3

Release No.: 26/JUN
11-1/86/06/20

SPEECH BY MR S JAYAKUMAR, MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS,
AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF CISCO BUILDING,
20, JALAN AFIFI ON FRIDAY, 20 JUNE 1986 AT 11.00 AM

In the last five years, the trend of prevalent property crimes such as robbery, burglary, snatch theft and motor vehicle theft has been on the increase. In 1981, there were 7,615 of such crimes reported to the police. Last year, there were 10,795 cases reported to the police, showing an increase of 42 per cent.

The two categories of crime which are of concern to business people and residents are robbery and burglary. The majority of these crimes took place in non-residential premises. Last year, 90 per cent of robberies and 57 per cent of burglaries were in non-residential areas. Robberies in commercial shophouses decreased by 45 per cent from 89 in 1981 to 49 in 1985. On the other hand, burglaries in the same premises increased by 19 per cent from 631 in 1981 to 751 in 1985. As far as high-rise shopping and commercial complexes are concerned, both robberies and burglaries showed a marked increase of 44 per cent and 103 per cent respectively over the same period. For factories, the number of burglaries increased by 121 per cent.

While police have stepped up efforts to prevent and to fight crime, they cannot be physically present everywhere. The community has a very important role to play. Each individual and organisation should take measures to be vigilant against crime at home and at work places.

The neighbourhood watch scheme launched three years ago, was formed for the purpose of mobilising the community to fight crime. It now has about 250,000 participating households and includes more than 140 condominiums and 370 private housing estates.

What about the commercial and industrial sector? The police have been working with security liaison committees within selected trades and associations such as Singapore Jewellers' Association, Association Banks of Singapore. The police has also drawn people from different trades to control crime on their premises by forming Crime Prevention Committees (CPCs). To date, a total of 94 CPCs has been set up. In all these crime prevention groups, the police regularly update members on the crime situation, advise appropriate preventive measures etc. These crime prevention committees and security liaison committees must take preventive measures seriously.

The security industry can complement the efforts of the police and the community in crime prevention by providing either security guards or equipment or a combination of both. Every security firm must be able to offer advice and solutions for a wide range of security needs if they are to gain credibility in the field. No one would be prepared to invest in a security system if he is not sure whether the services provided is reliable or effective. Therefore, it is important for the security industry to instantly upgrade to meet increasingly sophisticated demands, particularly in the commercial and industrial sectors. Besides continuing to ensure higher quality training for its guards, emphasis must be paid to providing a high standard of equipment.

In the long run, security agencies must work towards a concept which will be more cost effective, by relying more on modern technology rather than manpower alone. The answer ultimately is the effective combination of man and machine.

I am pleased to note that CISCO, the commercial and industrial security corporation, is taking the lead in this area.

CISCO has, since its inception in 1972, acquired a reputation for its guard and escort services. More recently, the corporation has stepped up efforts to develop and promote its equipment installation and monitoring capability.

This new building has an up-to-date security system, Singapore's only computerised indoor shooting range, a high security storage area and a host of other facilities for the further development of its services. Its new showroom displaying the latest state-of-the-art equipment and systems is one of the most comprehensive of its kind in Singapore. CISCO should now be in a better position to improve its services to complement the police efforts in crime prevention.

I congratulate CISCO for the successful completion of this project.

It is my pleasure now to declare this building open.

For online reference
viewing only
@ccccc@ccccc