

07/02/2003

Signed: Special Agreement to refer Pulau Batu Puteh to ICJ

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Chronology of events:

1844: The Sultan of Johor grants permission for the construction of the Horsburgh Lighthouse.

1851: The lighthouse is completed.

1979: Malaysia publishes its continental shelf map showing Pulau Batu Puteh as its territory.

Feb 14, 1980: Singapore lodges a protest note.

1989: Singapore builds a communications radar tower on the island.

1992: Singapore builds a helipad.

1993 to 1994: Bilateral negotiations are held to resolve the dispute. The talks fail to reach a resolution.

September 1994: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong agree to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice.

1995 to 1996: Talks are held on the terms of referring the dispute to the ICJ.

April 14, 1998: Text of the Special Agreement is agreed upon. Both sides agree that in addition to Pulau Batu Puteh, the adjacent features of Middle Rocks and South Ledge will also be included for adjudication by the ICJ.

December 2002: The dispute gains prominence following the ICJ verdict confirming Malaysia's sovereignty over the Sipadan and Ligitan islands.

Dec 25, 2002: A Malaysian Marine Police patrol boat is chased away by a Singaporean naval vessel as it approaches Pulau Batu Puteh.

Jan 9, 2003: Both countries set Feb 6 to sign the Special Agreement to bring the dispute to the ICJ.

Feb 6, 2003: Signing of the Special Agreement at Wisma Putra.