

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE ON 23RD MARCH,
1961

Gentlemen, it gives me very great pleasure indeed to have this opportunity of addressing you. There are certain subjects I feel I must touch upon today and which I think will be of interest to you. They are not in any particular order of priority and the first is what I think might reasonably be termed the New Look.

THE NEW LOOK

First of all the Army.

In 1960 we saw the end of the Emergency which had been the focus of the work and thought of our young Army for twelve years. To a large extent our organisation had been shaped to fit the needs of this Emergency.

In 1960 also we sent our first military force overseas under United Nations Command, and looking to the future it is by no means unlikely that United Nations will appeal to us again for assistance in one part of the World or another.

The recent troubles in Laos and West Irian show that it is important for us to have Armed Forces which are well officered, well organised and well equipped to provide an instrument with which the Government can help to maintain stability under the conditions pertaining in this part of the world.

This changing picture makes it important to review the organisation, equipment and size of our forces so that they are not found wanting in time of need. This study period will give you some conception of the problems involved and it is important that you think deeply about what should be done both in order to achieve the best solution and as part of your training as officers.

Turning our eyes to the Navy.

The Second Five Year Plan will include the first step towards modernisation of the Royal Malayan Navy and its establishment as a truly independent Navy. The two main projects are a new Naval Base and the provision of fast, modern and specially designed Patrol Craft.

Steady progress is being made with the building of new barracks and installations. The new Construction is of a high standard as you will have seen during your visit to the Federation Military College. As you will realise, the priority given to the Armed Forces in peacetime is not high and with emphasis being given to Rural Development, the resources of the P.W.D. are greatly stretched. As a result, we are not able to progress as quickly as we would wish.

We are also making steady progress with the building of married quarters but again it is going to be two or three years before we are fully up to scale. In the meantime we are, in areas of more acute shortage, providing a certain number of temporary married quarters which although not ideal, are better than nothing for the intervening period. This is a state of affairs we are doing our best to correct, but in the meantime any inconvenience must be borne patiently.

CONGO

Next a work on the Congo. Malaya strongly supports United Nations action in the Congo and Government, on the invitation of that body, agreed to send a Force consisting initially of a battalion group to join UNOC. This, as you know, is now about to be augmented by a Brigade HQ and a Recce Regt.

The hardship caused to the families of persons serving in the Congo due to separation is fully realised by the Government. It has been decided that MSF personnel serving or to serve in the Congo will do normally not more than one year's tour of duty out of Malaya. I must stress that a soldier's first duty is to his country and it is imperative that officers and men who are sent overseas should face separation with determination and fortitude.

We are looking at the overseas allowances for the MSF and an announcement will be made shortly, but service with the MSF is not intended as an opportunity whereby a soldier can make money. It is not a get rich quick exercise. Before personnel are sent to the Congo they must be instructed that they are not going there so that they can make money but to do a job of work.

Due consideration has been given to the possibility of flying the dead bodies of the MSF to Malaya at Government expense. It has been decided that this is not possible since there are no facilities for embalming in remote areas, and also the cost of air freighting would be prohibitive.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Next there are a number of points I want to make concerning the relationship between the Armed Forces and the Press and with the Press of course I include the Radio.

It is of the utmost importance that this relationship should be cordial and that there should be willing co-operation and mutual trust. This unfortunately has not always been the case in the past.

Now here I must sound a note of warning, cordial relations does not mean that members of the Armed Forces should go out of their way to give to reporters full information on every subject about which they ask and even, on occasion, for full measure, throw in tit bits of classified information about which they have not asked. There is, gentlemen, something called security and the importance of this I cannot stress too strongly. Full instructions on this will be reaching all of you shortly in the form of an Armed Forces Council Instruction.

There are very many items of a non-classified nature, however, which will be welcomed by the Press and a forecast of coming events of interest to the Public by Brigades and the Navy and Air Force will enable the Press to be given advanced warning so that they can treat the subject in the best possible way. To this end the Public Relations Section in the Ministry of Defence is being reorganised.

I must stress that Public Relations is by no means one sided. The Press get their story which pleases them but the Armed Forces also stand to benefit a great deal. With so much of the National Budget being spent on the Armed Forces it behoves us to let the taxpayer know what he is getting for his money. Of much more importance to the Armed Forces however is the fact that if the general public has a high regard for the Armed Forces this can be of tremendous value in helping ex-members of the Armed Forces to resettle into civilian life.

FRAUD

My next subject, gentlemen, is not a pleasant one. As you are aware it is the clear intention of Government to root out corruption and dishonesty from all Government Departments. It is my painful duty to say that there have been far too many cases in the last few years in which members of the Armed Forces have

been convicted either by courts-martial or by the civil courts of fraudulent offences. Since Merdeka twenty-one cases have been tried by court-martial in which there were twenty convictions: no less than five officers have been cashiered or dismissed within the last two years.

Many of these cases would never have come to trial if commanding officers had observed the cardinal principles of fraud prevention. These are both simple and few and are as follows:

(a) COs must carry out at frequent and irregular intervals surprise checks on all accounts in their units, whether they are cash accounts or accounts in respect of other public or service property, rations, petrol and the like.

(b) COs must impress on all account holders the necessity of entering in an account every transaction as soon as it occurs. It is only too easy to fall into the habit of saying "I'll wait and make those entries tonight or tomorrow when I'm not so busy". This leads to error and error only too often leads to fraud in an attempt to conceal the error. This is the beginning of the slippery slope of fraud.

(c) It is the duty of all officers to ensure that temptation is not placed in the way of other ranks, particularly pay clerks, by allowing them uncontrolled access to documents such as acquittance rolls and pay books which can easily be tampered with for fraudulent purposes. In the majority of cases in which other ranks have been brought to trial for offences of a fraudulent nature, a great deal of the blame has been attributable to slackness on the part of officers.

(d) Audit boards must do their job conscientiously.

The Armed Forces Council is determined to stamp out fraud as quickly as possible. To this end they have declared offences of fraudulent nature to be "prevalent offences" and presidents of courts-martial are reminded that, when they are deliberating sentences to be awarded for such offences, exemplary punishments should be the rule rather than the exception. It is the declared policy of the Armed Forces Council that, in any future cases in which members of the Armed Forces are convicted of fraudulent offences and are, as a result, sentenced to be cashiered,

dismissed or discharged with disgrace or ignominy, and thereby forfeit eligibility to retired pay, pension or gratuity, the Council will not consider the grant of any compassionate or ex-gratia awards whatsoever.

MALAYANISATION

And now finally a few facts and figures on the subject of Malayanisation. The policy of the Federation Government is to carry out Malayanisation at the best possible speed without entailing serious loss of efficiency. To this end specialist appointments in training establishments (e.g. FMC, AFSI) and senior staff appointments will be the last to be Malayanised.

The Malayanisation Plan is under review bi-annually and no changes in the Plan or grant of extension of tours are ever made without my prior approval.

In the Army considerable progress has been made in carrying out the Malayanisation Plan. The relevant strengths are:

	British Officers	British Other Ranks	Malayan Officers
As at 1 Jan. 58 ..	238	197	204
As at 1 Jan. 61 ..	152	118	430
Forecast at as 1 Jan. 62 ...	106	47	465

All third grade staff appointments have been fully Malayanised and approximately one-third of the second grade staff appointments are now filled by Malaysians.

It will be appreciated that the rate of Malayanisation of technical appointments will, of necessity, be a slower process as it will take some time to train Malaysians up to the required technical standards. It must also be pointed out that the despatch of the Malayan Special Force to the Congo has not made Malayanisation easier.

In the Navy the number of seconded post in January 1961 was:

thirty-two British officers

thirty-three British ratings

and in January 1962 this will be:

twenty-nine British officers

twenty-nine British ratings.

As the R M N is a young service, it will be necessary to retain most of the seconded officers for the next few years at the least whilst the junior Malayan officers are being given experience in as many appointments as possible to fit them for their early assumption of greater responsibilities. This is also necessary in order to protect the career structure in the interest of modernisation and expansion of the R M N .

The number of Malayan officers in January 1962, including cadets under training, will be forty.

RMAF

As the RMAF is still in its formative stage, the Malayanisation of seconded personnel will naturally be slow and indeed, due to expansion there will be some initial increase in the number of seconded persons. The figures are as follows:

On 1 January 61, there were
thirty-two British officers
eighteen British other ranks

Due to expansion, the number in January 1962 will be increased to:

thirty-six British officers
twenty-nine British other ranks

While the number of Malayan officers will have risen to forty-one.

By the end of 1965 the Officer Corps of the R M A F will be 95% Malayan and 5% British.

That gentlemen, ends the subjects about which I want to talk to you today and I will conclude by urging each one of you to ponder without bias on the problems which confront you, and wishing you well in your deliberations during the course of this Study Period and in the tasks which lie ahead of you both here and overseas.



Tun Abdul Razak sedang membuka dengan resminya sebuah Klinik Bidan di Kampung Kuala Linggi, Alor Gajah, Melaka pada 23hb Mac, 1961. (Gambair Jabatan Penerangan Malaysia).