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SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE AT THE WINGS
PARADE AT THE ROYAL MALAYAN AIR
FORCE STATION, KUALA LUMPUR ON 14TH
DECEMBER, 1961

Commander, Officers and men of the R M A F,

I have just presented with great pleasure Wings to three officers who are the first to be trained completely by the Royal Malayan Air Force in Malaya. Therefore, today is another landmark in the development of the Royal Malayan Air Force.

Although you are still a very young service, being barely three and half years old, you can all look back with pride on what has been achieved in that short time.

It is sometimes difficult for those involved in the day to day work of an organisation to appreciate the progress that is being made. I would like to remind you of some of the things that have been done.

We started in June 1958 with one aircraft and our total strength was twelve officers and airmen. Within two years, in April 1960, we took over full responsibility for the supply of the- Police forts. Six months later, in October 1960, we took over this station and became a fully independent force. During 1961 we will have trained seventy-seven young men as tradesmen in our own Technical Training School here. And we have set up our own Flying Training School to train our pilots. Early in 1963 we shall assume full responsibility for air supply of all force engaged on Border Security Operations. This record of rapid development is one of which you should all be proud.

We are now in the middle of a large expansion programme, and this means that many of you will be taking on greatly increased responsibilities during the next few years. I hope, therefore, you will continue to apply yourselves diligently to your various duties so that you will be ready to meet these increased responsibilities. Only in this way will you be able to maintain the record of high efficiency of our R M A F.

To the three officers to whom I have today presented wings I would like to remind them that they have completed only the first step in their training. You have to shoulder more and greater responsibilities in the future. Therefore you must continue to apply yourselves to your duties as diligently as you did during your days in the Training School.

I wish you all good luck in the service to our country and our people.