

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
IN MOVING THE EXPENDITURE FOR FEDERATION ARMED FORCES AT DEWAN RAKYAT,  
KUALA LUMPUR ON 26TH JUNE, 1962

Mr Chairman, Sir,

I beg to move that expenditure amounting to \$11,506,020 for Head 114, Federation Armed Forces, be approved.

Sir, with the exception of one Sub-head, that is Sub-head 64, all the supplements sought for the Armed Forces are to provide for continuation projects. I therefore propose to be as brief as possible in my explanation of each of the items of the proposals included.

As Honourable Members see from the Estimates, a number of the proposals relate to building projects of the Army. I refer to the first four Sub-heads of the Estimates and Sub-heads 27, 28, 32, and 33. The funds which have been allocated under these Sub-heads in the 1962 Development Estimates have been enough to cover only the first half of the year. The money that Parliament is now being asked to approve represents the planned contractual commitments for the second half of 1962.

Supplement requested under the Sub-heads 55, 62 and 63 are to cover expenditure during the second half of the year to re-equip the Armed Forces with modern and suitable weapons in accordance with our planned programme, of which I have previously mentioned in this House.

Sub-head 64, which, as I have explained, is the only new item in the Estimates, is to meet a requirement for new equipment, **consisting** of the fire engine and some wireless and sundry equipment for a Fire Fighting Unit at the Federation Armed Forces Cantonment at Batu where valuable stores and equipment are being kept and installed. The Cantonment is outside the area of responsibility of the Kuala Lumpur Municipality, but they have agreed to run the Fire Fighting Unit in the Cantonment on the condition that all expenses incurred in running it and in providing equipment for it are borne by the Federation Armed Forces.

Now, Sir, under Sub-head 59 only a token provision of \$10 was originally entered in the Estimates. This was later raised to \$500,000. The Royal Malayan Navy has been operating for some time with inadequate spares backing at its base in Singapore. It is also considered necessary to improve the training facilities in the base in the light of the commissioning of more complex craft and equipment in the Royal Malayan Navy. For the purpose of improving this situation a sum of \$499,990 is required, that is, to build a stock of spares and equipment to support the Navy and also to provide facilities which would enable training to be carried out in the use of more complex craft and equipment.

Under Sub-head 60 a sum of \$3.5 million was entered in 1962 for the purchase of new Patrol Craft, the first of which was officially launched at Portsmouth by the wife of our High Commissioner in London on the 4th of this month. To quicken the delivery of these crafts the production programme has been speeded up. Our contract with the builders specified that certain percentage payment should be made at the various stages of completion of the programme. The additional sum \$3.7 million is required to meet this acceleration, bringing the 1962 expenditure up to \$7.2 million. This figure includes an element for the purchase of spare gear which is required as essential backing for the craft when they become operational.

For the Royal Malayan Air Force there is one Sub-head, namely Sub-head 21. There is need for additional funds under this Sub-head as a result of an increase in the cost of aircraft between the time that the original estimate was prepared and the placing of the order for the aircraft, and from rising costs in production. In addition, new modifications have been found necessary and have had to be incorporated during production. The additional funds now requested relate to aircraft that have already been delivered in Malaya as well as those that are now in the process of being delivered.

Sir, I beg to move.