

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
CUM MINISTER OF DEFENCE TO MOVE THE
HEAD ON DEFENCE IN THE 1964 ESTIMATES
IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT ON 28TH DECEMBER,
1963

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

As has been the practice since 1962, the estimates for the Ministry of Defence, the Armed Forces and the Civil Defence appear under one Head of the Federal Estimates, namely, Head 14. For the year 1964, however, the estimates are shown under two Parts, Part A and Part B. Part A covers the basic estimates, that is excluding the additions required consequent upon the formation of Malaysia and Part B covers the Malaysia increment.

Honourable Members will note that the total estimated expenditure under Part A which covers the pre-Malaysia expenditure amounts to \$92.8 million which is in fact less than the sum approved for the year 1963 which was \$94.5 million. This does not, however, mean that there has been a reduction in our basic force; on the other hand there has been some natural growth but the reduced expenditure has been caused by our having to pay less for personnel loaned to us from the British Armed Forces. I shall dwell on this point at some length later in my speech. The estimated cost of the Malaysia addition amounts to \$65.5 million, making a total of \$158,392,544 for the year 1964.

Sir, I feel that I must warn this House that the expansion of the Armed Forces is by no means complete and that the estimated expenditure of \$158.3 million is not the final ceiling. This covers only a part of the planned expansion, and I shall therefore be coming to this House from time to time for additional funds. This expansion as I have mentioned before is necessary for two reasons: firstly, to assist the civil power in maintaining law and order in the States that have now linked their destiny with ours, and secondly to meet the threat posed by the unfriendly attitude of Indonesia.

Now Sir, before coming to the past progress and future plans for the three Services I wish to say a few words about our personnel in the Armed Forces. Next year, for the first time in the history of our Armed Forces, the senior military appointment, that of Chief of the Armed Forces Staff, will be filled by a Malaysian officer. This post will carry the rank of Lieutenant-General and Major-General Tunku Osman bin Tunku Mohd. Jewa, J.M.N., will be promoted to fill it. His place will be taken over by Major-General Abdul Hamid now in command of the Second Brigade. Malaysianisation is progressing very steadily in the Army, so that early next year almost all the top posts in the Army will be Malayanized. All our Brigade Commanders will be Malaysian officers. In the Navy and the Air Force, however, progress in this direction is less rapid because of the comparatively longer period of training required and the more technical nature of the duties in these services. We are, however, endeavouring to speed up the progress of Malaysianisation in these two services without impairing their efficiency. In the meantime we have to resort to the loan of personnel not only from the United Kingdom but also from other Commonwealth countries.

I now come to the special secondment scheme which we have recently negotiated with the United Kingdom for the loan of British personnel to the Malaysian Armed Forces. Under this arrangement we are required to pay to the British Government only the basic pay, the marriage allowance and the ration allowance for these personnel, all other emoluments being paid by the British Government. Other overhead charges such as passages and passage costs, pensions contributions and other non-effective charges are met by the British Government. An officer seconded from the British Armed Forces does not now cost us much more than a local officer and the saving as a result of the introduction of this scheme is reflected in Personal Emoluments and certain items under Other Charges Annually Recurrent.

I will now deal with the organisation of the Army. Honourable Members will recall that last year I referred to the setting up of a Brigade Headquarters, temporarily at Bentong, for the purpose

of providing a balanced command structure in the Federation. Up to the present moment this Brigade Headquarters together with the other two situated on the mainland of Malaya have to a large extent been limited in their mobility and effectiveness in war by their reliance on static supply depots and workshops. This will be corrected next year by the raising of new mobile supply platoons, ordnance parks, transport platoons, and repair units. This specially applies to the Third Brigade on the East Coast. The First Regiment of the Artillery has now become fully operational and the second Regiment will be formed next year to increase the striking power of the Army. This Regiment together with the first which is already fully operational and the old established volunteer Regiment in Singapore will provide us, in war, with three Regiments for the close and intimate support of three of our infantry brigades.

Our commitments along our border with Thailand will remain and will continue to make troops available—may well be on a slightly reduced scale—for border operations alongside the Royal Malaysian Police and Thai forces.

Our medical resources, above unit level, have of necessity up to now been of a static nature and barely adequate to meet our needs. A start will be made next year to provide the Army with a small mobile field medical team to handle casualties behind battalions and in transit back to our base civilian hospitals.

The estimates contain provision for some \$9 million for ammunition both Naval and Army (including Artillery) ammunition. These increased stocks are beyond our present ability to store and it will therefore be necessary to form an ammunition depot next year to hold ammunition of all types.

In the equipment sphere I would like to inform this House that we are reequipping the forces with better and more modern guns and mortars which will have greater firing and striking power. The old British three inch mortar has been replaced.

In Singapore, we will have to fully finance in 1964 the former Singapore Military Forces. We have already grafted on to these well-formed forces, additional men, units and equipment to expand them into our Fourth Infantry Brigade. Some further expansion will be necessary next year, mainly in the Brigade's logistics units, in order to make the Brigade an effective viable formation both for its public Order role with the Police, and also to enable it to be in a position to defend the State from any external threat.

In Sabah and Sarawak we are building up a properly constituted Brigade of infantry battalions, engineer and reconnaissance squadrons together with the necessary logistics units to support them, and of course a Headquarters and signals units to exercise command and control. This formation of units will be known as the Fifth Brigade. This major undertaking has been forced upon us by the policy of Indonesia and its hostile attitude both active and threatening along our borders.

Some of the units being stationed in East Malaysia were already in existence in the Peninsula but several others are being formed specially for these territories. The cost of them plus the expense of moving them and providing them with accommodation, will be a considerable extra burden which is reflected in these estimates.

Although our regular Army's preparedness in Sabah and Sarawak is considerable, I would like to remind the House that the United Kingdom Government is assisting us to a large degree in these territories. It is providing and financing its own units, ships and aircrafts in accordance with our defence agreement and is also giving us certain logistical support. Government has also agreed to finance two Battalions to be known as 1st and 2nd B, Malaysian Rangers, up to 31-12-65. Hope to take over a fully operation Unit on 1st Jan, '66. It is possible that we have not yet seen the limit of our requirement of troops in these States. Should additional men and material be required, it will no doubt be necessary for me to come to this House for supplementary funds next year.

Honourable Members will no doubt appreciate that the strength of our Army will by 1964 have almost doubled since 1960,

I will now, Sir, turn to the Territorial Army. The Territorial Army is being gradually expanded in strength until it reaches its target figure of 10,000 volunteers. As part of the effort to meet the effectiveness of the Army, the following measures will be taken in relation to the Territorial Army in 1964:

- (a) Equipment will be provided for all units up to 30 per cent of the scales applicable to the equivalent regular Army units;
- (b) The number of hours of total training will be increased by 120 hours per annum for each individual volunteer so as to give a maximum of 360 hours training to each volunteer as exposed to the present ceiling of 240 hours;
- (c) The build-up of two Engineer Squadrons is being brought forward from 1865 to 1964;
- (d) The raising of four Engineer Specialist teams is being undertaken. These teams will have the task of assisting the various civic authorities, in a time of national crisis, in operating posts, power stations, water supply and railways.

On Malaysia Day, the Singapore Volunteers became a part of the Territorial Army and we have to provide for them next year. All units of the Singapore volunteers joined on their existing establishments and terms and conditions of service. Such changes as are necessary will be carried out in 1965 and the estimates for that year will be prepared accordingly. During 1964, however, it is proposed to plan the necessary changes to bring these units into line with their counterparts in the Peninsula. It is also planned to form an additional Territorial Army infantry battalion in Singapore.

The Government has also decided that the Local Defence Corps of the Territorial Army should be expanded from a strength of 1,500 to approximately 24,000 all ranks. The object is to have platoons in all towns and major kampongs. Owing to its existing commitments the regular army will be unable to assist in training the Local Defence Corps and we hope that ex-servicemen and other qualified persons will come forward to assist in this matter. We also

plan to form Local Defence Corps units in the Borneo States with a total strength of some 1,500 men. This planned expansion of the Local Defence Corps is not reflected in the estimates now before the House and I will therefore be coming to this House early in the New Year for additional funds for this task.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I now turn to the Royal Malaysian Navy. In mid 1962 there were 53 officers and 788 ratings in the Navy. By the end of 1964 we expect to have over 200 officers and nearly 1,500 ratings. This is the expansion which has become necessary to provide the officers and men for the new ships which we are acquiring to protect our vastly increased coastlines and our sea communications with Sabah and Sarawak.

The increased expenditure in the Estimates for 1964 for the Navy stems directly from the increase in ships and the consequent increase in the officers and men. As Honourable Members no doubt appreciate, ships require fuel, ammunition, stores and maintenance whilst their crew require uniforms, food and pay.

The accelerated expansion of the Navy and the acquisition of modern ships fitted with equipment and machinery has necessitated a major training programme. This will continue throughout 1964. Many of the officers and ratings sent to the United Kingdom to commission the new ships undergo specialist training at British Naval ships, particularly training relating to the operation and maintenance of the equipment which they will find in the ship which they are to join and bring to Malaysia.

During the year 1963, some new fast patrol crafts and coastal minesweepers have joined our Navy. They are already on operational patrol duties protecting our territorial waters in the Straits of Malacca and off the coasts of Sabah and Sarawak.

In addition, we will acquire in 1964 many more ships for our Navy, including one large landing craft for transporting troops and equipment.

To support the increased fleet, we intend to develop the base maintenance and logistics facilities at Singapore and Labuan. The main Naval Base will, however, continue to be at Singapore and we have taken over, from the British, an area of land on the Johore Straits immediately adjacent to the existing Naval Barracks at Woodlands. Here we plan to construct a jetty in 1964. It will also be necessary to expand the existing base to provide additional accommodation, workshop and training facilities.

At Labuan we plan to begin construction of a small permanent Naval Base to provide the necessary maintenance and logistic support for our ships operating in that area. The cost of these ships and buildings is reflected in the Development Estimates for 1964 but the cost of men and other attendant services is included in the Ordinary Estimates.

We have also taken over the Singapore Division of the Naval Reserve and we hope to integrate this Reserve into the Royal Malaysian Naval Volunteer Reserve. However, for 1964, the personnel serving with the Singapore Division of the Naval Reserve are shown separately in Personal Emoluments under the heading "Jawatan Singapura".

I now come to the third Service, the Royal Malaysian Air Force. During 1963, our Air Force has been expanded by the acquisition of new aircraft including Alouette helicopters, Herons and Herald transport and communication aircraft. Some more of these aircraft are expected to arrive before the end of 1963. The aircrew required to operate these aircraft are already available and recruiting of ground staff and the training is well advanced.

Additional aircraft will be received during 1964, including training aircraft.

This expansion of the Air Force has resulted in the need for a second airfield for the Flying Training School and to meet this requirement, Alor Star airfield is being developed and is expected to be operational by July, 1964. The development of the Royal Malaysian Air Force Station at Kuala Lumpur will continue

during 1964. The building of a new aircraft hanger to provide servicing facilities for the increased number of aircraft will be completed and the equipment depot which is required for holding increased aircraft spares and equipment will be partially completed and operating during 1964.

A detachment of the Royal Malaysian Air Force is now operating from Labuan in support of the ground forces there and the number of aircraft there will progressively increase during 1964. Labuan airfield will be developed for use as a permanent base. This will undoubtedly result in considerable expenditure on the purchase of existing facilities and the construction of domestic accommodation.

The air supply to troops engaged in the Malaya/Thai border operations which was previously carried out in conjunction with the Royal Air Force is now the sole responsibility of our Air Force.

During 1963, eight Malaysian pilots completed their flying training: two pilots qualified as flying instructors at the Royal Air Force Central Flying School and are now employed as flying instructors in the Royal Malaysian Air Force. A further seventeen pilots are now under training. The need to increase the output of pilots is urgent and to meet this requirement the Provost Training Aircraft have been ordered for delivery in 1964.

The technical training of ground personnel has progressed satisfactorily. During 1963, 95 Malaysian airmen completed basic technical courses, 46 airmen completed advanced technical courses and a total of 136 airmen are now undergoing advanced and basic training at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Technical Training School. This training output must be contained during 1964 if we are to meet the planned expansion.

Sir, I have just outlined the plan for the Royal Malaysian Air Force during 1964 and the expenditure required for this plan is included in the 1964 estimates; the cost of aircraft and buildings are, however, reflected in the Development Estimates.

The Royal Malaysian Air Force Volunteer Reserve is continuing its training to enable it to play its part alongside the Royal Malaysian Air Force when the need arises.

Before concluding my speech I would like to explain for the benefit of Honourable Members some of the significant increases under Other Charges Annually Recurrent and Other Charges Special Expenditure. Honourable Members will note that the estimate for Ammunition, that is, under Subhead 28 and Subhead 65 of Other Charges Annually Recurrent, has increased from \$3,126,000 to \$9,944,430. The reasons for this increase are: firstly, the introduction of new weapons into the Armed Forces with the consequent need to buy adequate stocks of ammunition for them; secondly, the increase in size of the Armed Forces with the resulting increase in the usage of ammunition to train personnel; thirdly, the need to establish an adequate reserve of ammunition in the country from which the Armed Forces can draw in an emergency. Honourable Members will no doubt realise how dangerous it is if we have to depend on reserve stocks of ammunition which are not located in this country and are not readily available to our Armed Forces.

Honourable Members will also note that the estimates for Air Supply Equipment (Subheads 13 and 50) of Other Charges Annually Recurrent have risen from \$520,000 in 1963 to \$1,392,000 for 1964. The reasons for this increase are twofold. We have in the past received considerable assistance from the (British) Royal Air Force in the delivery of supplies to units of the Malaysian Armed Forces operating in the jungles along the northern border of Malaya. The charges raised by the British's Government for these services were very moderate. The Royal Malaysian Air Force has now assumed responsibility for the aerial delivery of supplies and this Government has, in consequence, to bear the full cost of these operations. In addition, there has been arisen a requirement to maintain units in Sabah and Sarawak by means of air supply, a commitment that we did not have in 1963, and financial provision has had to be made to meet the costs therefor.

The financial provision for Common Technical Stores (Sub-head 79 of Other Charges Special Expenditure) has increased from \$263,750 in 1963 to \$780,000 for 1964. This large increase arises from the need to continue to equip the units of the Armed Forces existing prior to Malaysia with the modern technical equipment which has been planned for them. This includes a number of items which had to be deferred from previous years because the equipment to meet our requirements was not at that time available. This is particularly so in the case of Signals equipment where there is continual progress in development of new and better equipment. The provision of \$780,000 is made up of \$277,618 for Signals equipment, \$102,100 for Engineer equipment, \$119,000 for equipment required by the Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, \$126,900 for equipment required by the Royal Malaysian Navy and \$55,000 for specialist equipment required by the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

Sir, I beg to move that the amount of \$158,392,544 shown under Head 14 stands part of the Bill.