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SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON THE
SECOND READING OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964 IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT
ON 15TH JULY, 1964

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the National Service Ordinance, 1952," be read a second time.

Sir, as Honourable Members are aware, proclamations have been made by His Majesty the Yang Di Pertuan Agong requiring all male adults between the ages of 21 and 29 years to register for National Service under the National Service Ordinance, 1952. The registration the States of Malaya, Singapore and Sabah. As regards Sarawak, the registration is in the course of being carried out and is due to be completed soon.

It is the intention of the Government that a number of these people who have registered and who are medically fit will be called up for service in the Armed Forces. They will undergo two months' intensive training at Sigenting Training Camp, Port Dickson and possibly later at other training centres to be set up elsewhere in Malaysia.

The existing legislation makes no provision for a National Serviceman to serve in the Reserve of our Armed Forces once he has completed his period of full time service. The Government feels that it will be illogical, and indeed it will be a waste of public money, to release these National Servicemen from all liability for further service once they have completed their two months' full-time training.

This Bill now before the House is therefore introduced for the purpose of raising a National Service Reserve to which personnel who have completed their period of full-time National Service will be transferred.

The Bill will also authorise annual refresher training not exceeding 15 days per year during the five years that they remain in the National Service Reserve. It is also the intention of the Government that this training shall be carried out by attachment to units of the Regular Army.

The new Clause 11 (c) of the Bill enables the Yang Di Pertuan Agong to recall for full-time service the whole or any part of the National Service Reserve. This is considered necessary so that the Government

may have an immediate call on a pool of partly trained manpower should it ever become necessary to expand the Regular Army.

The other provisions of the Bill, Sir, deal with details which I think require no elaboration from me except to state that some of the amendments proposed in the Bill are of a general nature. Honourable Members would in particular have noticed that the effect of the amendment proposed in Clause 4 of the Bill would be to place in a civil court, instead of in a military court, jurisdiction to trial a person who fails to comply with a notice to enrol in the Armed Forces. This is considered would be the correct procedure because a person will not have become subject to military law until he is enlisted. Therefore, it is appropriate that if he fails to comply with the notice to enlist he should be tried in a civil court under sub-section (3) of Section 11 of the Ordinance, which provides a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment or a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or both.

One further change introduced by the Bill is that it is proposed that the Minister to be made responsible for the administration of the National Service Ordinance is now the Minister of Defence instead of the Minister for Home Affairs.