

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
ON THE SECOND READING OF THE SERVICE
LANDS BILL AT THE DEWAN RAKYAT ON
22ND AUGUST, 1963

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill intituled, "an Act to make provision for the ejection of persons unlawfully occupying any land used or to be used for the purposes of any Federation forces and to incorporate the United Kingdom Services' Lands Board" be read a second time.

Sir, Clause 2 of the Bill sets out the procedure for the removal of unlawful occupants of lands used or to be used for the purpose of any Federation forces. This provision is desirable in the interests of defence and security, as the ordinary civil process for the eviction of unlawful occupants of land, other than State land, is too lengthy and cumbersome for dealing with squatters on lands required for use by the Armed Forces.

Briefly, the procedure proposed in this Bill is that it gives authority to a magistrates' court to require, by warrant, any Police officer to dispossess and remove from such land any unlawful occupant and to take possession of the land together with all crops growing thereon and all building and other immovable property upon and affixed to the land. But the Magistrate must be satisfied with the truth of the information received by the Court from the Federal Commissioner of Lands.

Now, Clause 3 merely implements Section 6 of Annex IV of the Defence Treaty where we have given an undertaking to enact legislation which will permit the United Kingdom Services authorities through their representative here to hold interest in land, and with that object will also provide for the incorporation of the representative of the Services authority.

It is a very short Bill and I hope the House will approve this without much amendment.

Sir, I beg to move.