



# INFORMATION SERVICES · SINGAPORE

PRESS  
STATEMENT

15

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

INFS. JL. 58/27.

SPEECH BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR, SIR WILLIAM GOODE,  
AT THE TRANSFER OF THE ROYAL MALAYAN NAVY CEREMONY  
ON SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1958, AT R.M.N. HQRS. WOODLANDS

Let me first welcome to Singapore so many good friends and neighbours from the Federation whom we are always happy to see here; and I also welcome here today the presence of so many distinguished representatives of the Diplomatic Corps in Kuala Lumpur.

Today's ceremony marks the end of a chapter in the history of the R.M.N. A history that goes back nearly 20 years to the Singapore R.N.V.R. who mobilised for war service in 1939, swept the approaches to Singapore for the next two years and played their full part in the desperate last days of 1942.

The survivors who succeeded in making their way to Java and Ceylon were formed into a small Malayan Naval unit which served throughout the rest of the war. Some of these men are still serving today in the Royal Malayan Navy. For those men and their tradition of gallant service provided the nucleus to form the Royal Malayan Navy in 1948 when the Governments of the Federation of Malaya and Singapore agreed that the Federation should raise Malaya's Army forces building on the Malay Regiment and Singapore should raise Malaya's Navy with the help of the Royal Navy at the Naval Base here, building upon our Naval tradition.

Now circumstances have changed. Singapore is also starting regular military forces and the Federation of Malaya, which has the greater need for a Navy, and has always provided the majority of the men, will take over the Royal Malayan Navy from Singapore.

We, in Singapore, are proud of our association with the Royal Malayan Navy. There are many who, like me, often watched the Singapore minesweepers coming back to Telok Ayer Basin in 1940 and 1941. We have watched with admiration your smartness and ever-increasing efficiency and we are proud of such help as we have been able to give you in your formative years.

The bonds that have thus formed between Singapore and the Royal Malayan Navy are not easily severed. Nor indeed will they be severed because we in Singapore will continue to regard you with pride and affection in the future and, at least, for the next few years you will continue to be based here in Singapore where you will always be welcome. We hope, too, that you will always look upon Singapore with friendship and with happy memories of your early years here.

During the past five years I have had the privilege first as Chief Secretary and, recently, as Governor, to be closely connected with the Royal Malayan Navy. I have often seen you on parade and have been inspired by your fine bearing and high morale. This is the last time that I shall have the honour of addressing you as your titular C-in-C. You now join the other armed forces of the Federation with their outstanding reputation for smartness and fighting spirit.

You carry with you a fine tradition of service in war and peace and I am confident that the Federation will be as proud of you as we shall always be proud of you. On behalf of all of us in Singapore, I wish you every success in the future. (Time issued 1000 hours)  
JULY 12, 1958.