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SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT.

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SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR ROBERT
BLACK, AT A FAREWELL PARADE GIVEN BY THE ROYAL
MALAYAN NAVY AT 11 A.M. AT WOODLANDS ON WEDNES-
DAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1957

I am afraid that this is the last occasion on which I shall be visiting you in my capacity as Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Singapore. In only a few days from now I shall be leaving Singapore to proceed on transfer to Hong Kong and I was anxious to pay an informal visit to you all at Woodlands before I left, so that I might in person convey to each of you my good wishes for the future, for the future of the Royal Malayan Navy itself and for the future of each one of those who serve in it.

When I first visited you nearly two years ago, I referred to the fact that I had studied your record since formation and that it has left me with a very fine impression of the morale and efficiency of the Royal Malayan Navy. In the period that has elapsed since that particular parade, I have had frequent confirmation of my first impressions, and I consider that your Captain has very properly expressed pride in what you have done.

Singapore has good reason to share that pride, and the Federation of Malaya has good reason to be grateful for the assistance which the Royal Malayan Navy has so efficiently rendered in the Emergency.

It is, of course, the Federation which has the best opportunity of seeing you in an operational role, but we in Singapore have judged the impressive results of your training and morale in your excellent turn-out on the many occasions when you have been on parade. It has been my concern to note your drill at such ceremonies, and I can assure you that it has been excellent, not least on the very memorable parade at which The Queen's Colour was presented to the Far East Station of the Royal Navy.

Your Captain has said that wherever you take them you meet respect for your Flag and for your uniform. I know that this is true, because I have received favourable reports from many quarters, reports which redound to the credit of you all. You live close to the Royal Navy and, indeed, enjoy great assistance from that Service, see its members at first-hand and in sharing, in consequence, their splendid heritage, upon you falls the duty and the obligation of honouring and preserving that heritage in the same way as officers and men of the Royal Navy themselves are called upon to do so.

I am confident that with this inspiration, with the excellent training which you have undergone during the last nine years and in company with your own excellent traditions achieved by your own efforts during the nine years of your life, your

future as a Navy is a bright one.

I have heard with pleasure of the large number of young Malaysians who have come forward to join the Navy; whether as officers or as ratings, they could choose no finer career for themselves. In the presence also of the political changes which have taken place and are continuing to take place, I think I can safely say that the Royal Malayan Navy has set an example in training Malaysians for senior and responsible posts, to ensure progress to the goal which the R.M.N. always has in mind, namely, a Malayan Navy manned entirely by Malayan officers and men.

The fact that a large number of ratings are seeking advance to higher rating in the career which they have chosen for themselves by passing professional examinations shows that they see prospects for themselves and are taking advantage of the opportunities of promotion to the highest ranks which this young Navy offers them.

Some of you may be worried at the present time about the future of the Royal Malayan Navy in view of rumours which have circulated for some time now in connection with negotiations taking place between the Governments of the Federation of Malaya and of Singapore. On that question I would remind you of the assurance which the Singapore Government gave some time ago, indeed, last August, that there was no intention to disband the R.M.N.

I know you would wish me, before closing, to place on record our appreciation of the great assistance rendered to the Royal Malayan Navy by the Royal Navy, not only in the loan of officers and ratings as well as of ships, but also in the many facilities they willingly provide here at the Naval Base. They have been and will continue to be good friends of the Royal Malayan Navy.

Now it falls to me to say good-bye to you all. To the Royal Malayan Navy and to each of you who serve in it I offer my very best wishes. I hope that good fortune will attend you wherever you carry your Flag. Good-bye, and good luck to you all.

NOVEMBER 27, 1957.

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