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13 December, 2022

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Submission to Inquiry - Mr (WO2) Linton Francis Solomon

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Inquiry into medallic recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Mr (WO2)

Given Names *

Linton Francis

Surname *

Solomon

Post-nominals (if applicable)

Street Number and Name *

[REDACTED]

Suburb *

[REDACTED]

Postcode *

[REDACTED]

State *

[REDACTED]

Email Address: *

[REDACTED]

Primary Contact Number *

[REDACTED]

Secondary Contact Number

Is the Submission on behalf of an organisation? If yes, please provide details:

No

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

Supplementary to submission 050. Directed at the question of expectation of casualties. Also submit a copy of recent article published in the New Straits Times for your consideration, in relation to the second emergency.

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: 20221127-Cherishing-our-hard-won-peace-33-years-after-the-end-of-communist-insurgency.pdf
20221213-DHAAT-Supplementary-Casualties-4.pdf

Part 5 – Consent and declaration

✓ I consent to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal making my submission publicly available.

✓ I also consent to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal:

- using information contained in my submission to conduct research;
- providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation considered by the Tribunal to be appropriate; and
- providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation the subject of adverse comment in the submission;
- using content in my submission in its report to Government.

The Tribunal will decide which person or organisation is appropriate, and this may include:

1. persons or organisations required to assist with the inquiry; and
2. persons or organisations with an interest in the inquiry.

✓ I declare that the information I have provided is correct.

Name

Linton Solomon

Date

13/12/2022

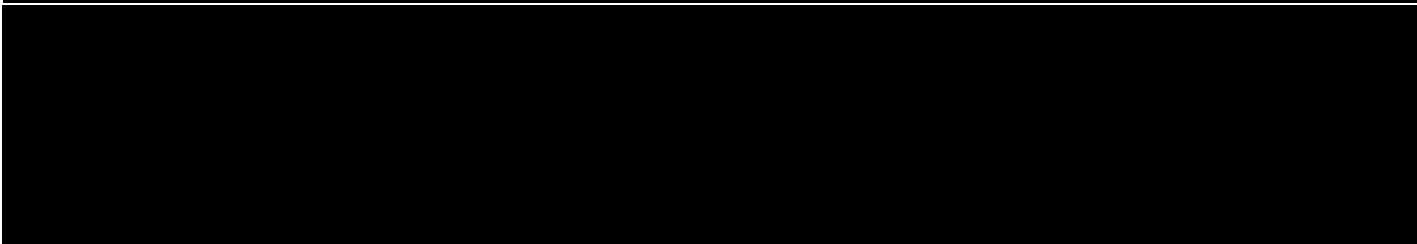
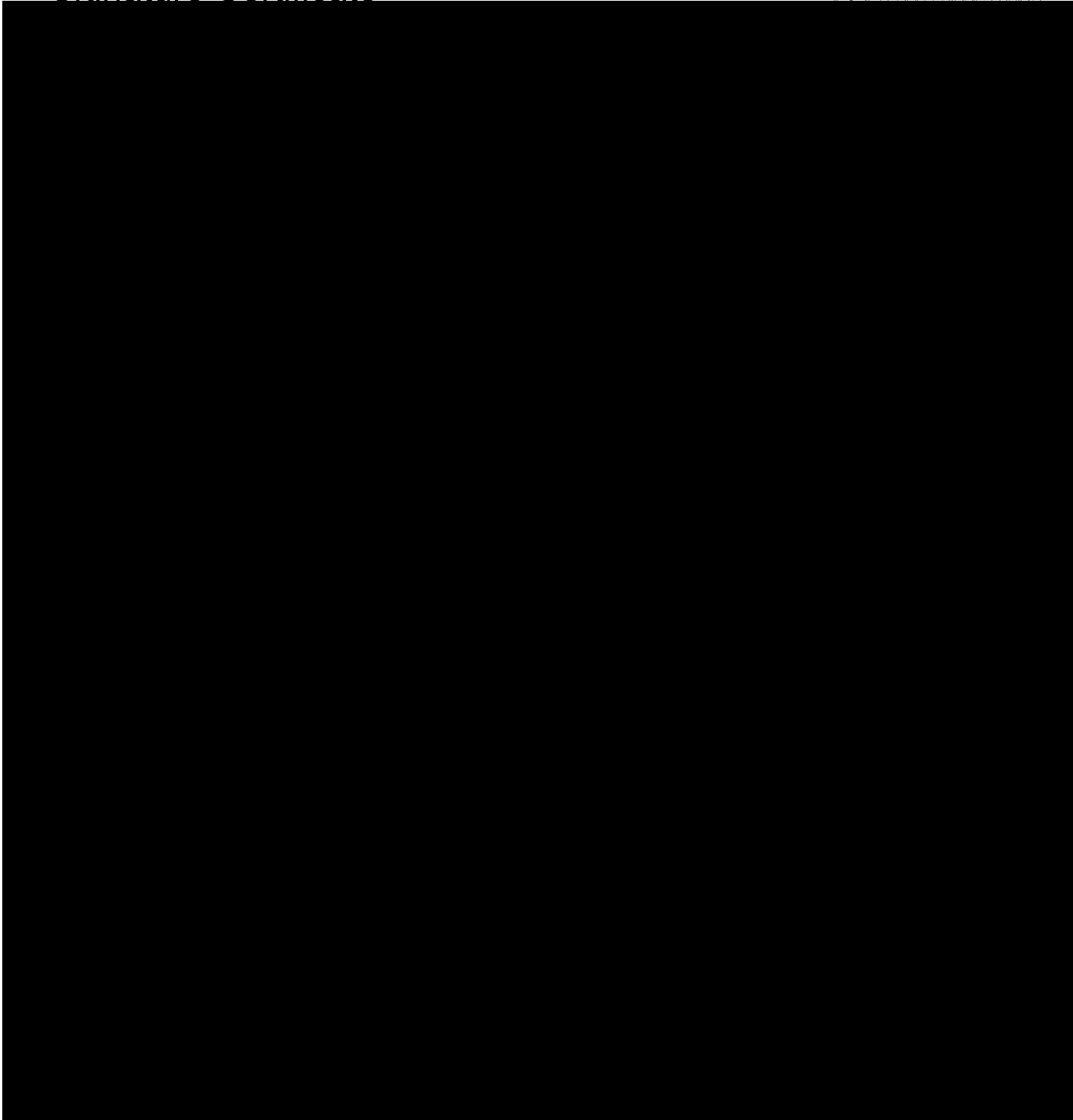
LF Solomon

Signed by Mr (WO2) Linton Francis Solomon

Signed on: 13 December, 2022

Signature Certificate

 LEGALLY SIGNED USING



Cherishing our hard-won peace, 33 years after the end of communist insurgency

By [Raymond Goh](#) - November 27, 2022 @ 9:45am



Surviving veterans at the National Monument (Tugu Negara). The writer is first from right.

DURING the Malayan Campaign in World War 2 from 1941 to 1945, the Japanese army attacked and occupied Malaya. In response, the Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army (MPAJA) rose and fought alongside the British colonialists against the Japanese forces.

After Japan surrendered on Aug 15, 1945, the MPAJA and communist pro-independence fighters of the Malayan National Liberation Army, comprising about 5,000 men, turned against their British masters who returned to administer Malaya and extract her rich resources of tin and rubber.

The guerillas organised themselves into the Malayan Communist Party (MCP), claiming to fight for the independence of Malaya so that the rich resources like tin and rubber could be retained to develop the country.

As a result, the British administration declared the Malayan Emergency when the communists came on their bicycles and fatally shot three planters in their office at a rubber plantation in Sungai Siput, Perak, on Aug 16, 1948. The fourth planter escaped death because his arrival was delayed when his vehicle broke down.

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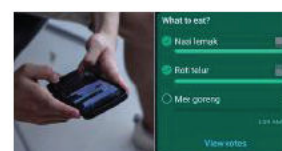
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Nov 2, 2022 @ 6:22pm

With the independence of Malaya won in London under our first prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman on Aug 31, 1957, the MCP lost its rationale as a war of colonial liberation against the British administration of Malaya.

The Emergency ended when the last significant group of MCP insurgents surrendered in Teluk Anson, Perak, in 1958. However, some communists did not give up and fled northwards to the Thai border. As no major MCP activities were detected in Malaya, and seeing that peace had returned, Tunku Abdul Rahman declared the end of the Emergency on July 31, 1960.

INSURGENCY RENEWED



Preparing for a patrol along the East-West Highway.

However, after reconsolidating their ranks and reorganising themselves along the Thai border, MCP secretary-general Chin Peng and his followers renewed the insurgency against the Malaysian government, declaring its return to armed revolt in 1968 to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the Malayan Emergency.

The Indonesian Confrontation (1963) had hardly ended on Aug 11, 1966, when the second Emergency erupted.

This time, instead of British colonialists, the communists had declared armed revolt against the sovereignty and democracy of Malaysia, which lasted up to 1989. Just after the second Emergency officially began on June 17, 1968, our security forces at the Kroh–Betong road in northern Perak was ambushed by insurgents.



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Aug 25, 2021 @ 4:37pm

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Tracker dogs were also deployed to track down enemies.

The build-up to the second Emergency could probably be attributed to regional events in that period. After World War 2, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia fell under communist influence while trying to gain independence from France, which returned to reclaim its Indochina colonies in 1946.

The French return to Vietnam was immediately met with resistance from the Viet Minh. Just after six months from November 1953, the Vietnamese, with four infantry divisions of 49,000 troops and supported by a 100 artillery guns, defeated a French garrison of 12,000 troops in the decisive battle of Dien Bien Phu (northwest Vietnam) on May 7, 1954. The French garrison commander surrendered to prevent further loss of lives.



The 600-metre rifle range built by army engineers in Bukit Merbau, Kelantan.

On July 21, 1954, at the Geneva Convention, the communists were allowed to establish a government in North Vietnam with jurisdiction until the 17th parallel (the provisional military demarcation line established in Vietnam by the Geneva Accords in 1954) as instructed by then China premier Zhou Enlai after negotiations with French prime minister Pierre Mendes, who agreed to pull French forces out of Vietnam.

South Vietnam remained a democracy with the help of American forces. This was to prevent the "Domino Theory" of southeast Asian countries falling into communist hands as propounded and expounded by US president Dwight D. Eisenhower.

However, on April 30, 1975, the North Vietnamese overcame the mighty American forces via left-flanking guerilla attacks through Laos and Cambodia, and united Vietnam.

This gave encouragement to the MCP, whose members and leadership were inspired by the success of the Vietnamese forces. The resurgence of the MCP insurgency was also strongly supported by China, which wanted to spread its ideology.

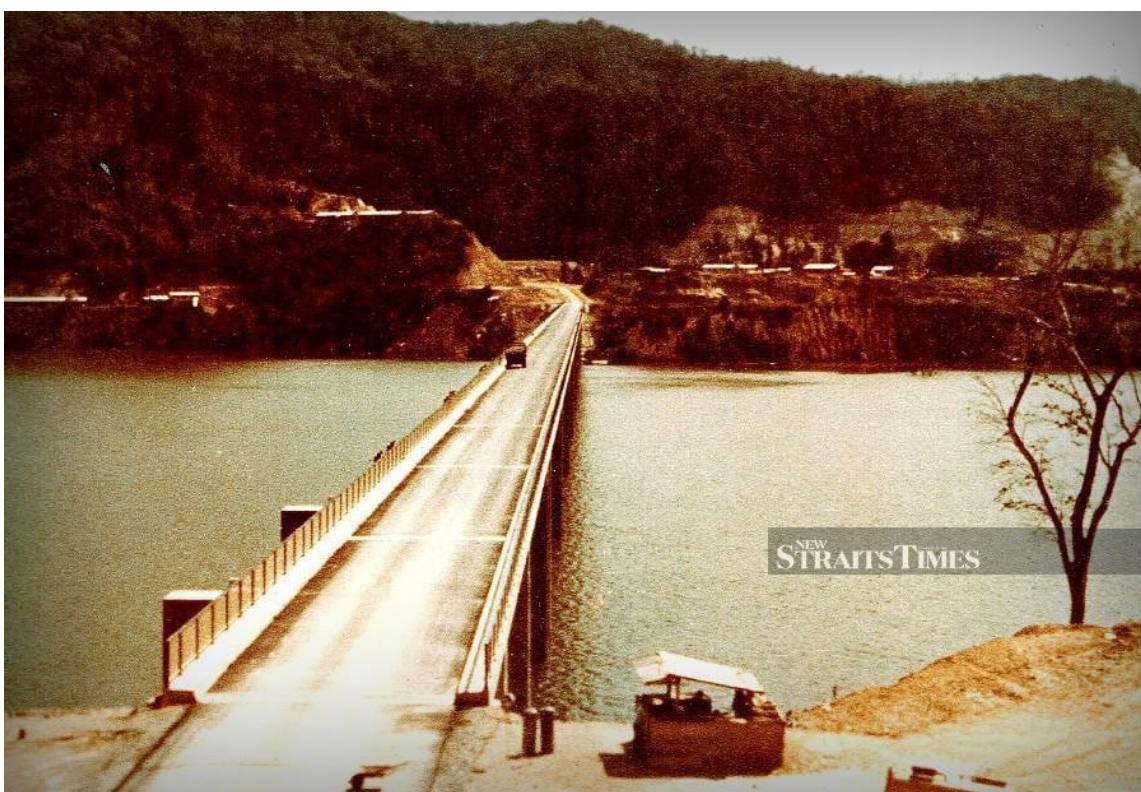
PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATION



The writer at the tactical HQ in Jeli camp of the East-West Highway.

After my command of the Royal Engineers School in Kluang in 1985, I was given command of the Royal Engineer Regiment in 4 Infantry Division in Kuantan, Pahang, under General Officer Commanding Major-General Datuk Osman Zain.

My area of operations covered Pahang, Terengganu and Kelantan. As a brainchild of prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, the "Security and Development" concept of operations was introduced to win the hearts and minds of the people. This marked the birth of the five-year Malaysia Plans since 1966. This was the people's war and it became known as psychological operations.



The Banding bridge.

The 127km East-West Highway connecting Jeli in Kelantan to Grik in Perak was the biggest project by the Public Works Department in 1970. It had the longest bridges connecting Pulau Banding (880m on the west

side and 640 metres on the east side) in Temenggor lake. Security was provided by our army along the highway.



Artillery guns at East-West Highway to provide harassing fire at enemy locations.

The purpose of this highway was to prevent communist forces from infiltrating the peninsula from their sanctuaries at the Thai border. Our artillery guns were posted at various high points along the highway to provide harassing fire and bombardment of enemy locations gathered through our military intelligence.

Other major projects included the Temenggor dam, Pedu dam and Muda dam for power generation, agricultural irrigation and water supply to Kedah and Penang.

For civic action projects, our army engineers built the 36km road from Merapoh to Gunung Tahan National Park, a 6km road at Kampung Pek (Kelantan) and a house for Puan Zalimah (a young widow with two children whose old house was washed away by heavy floods in December 1986), which was sponsored by the Kota Baru Council. We also constructed the 600m rifle range at Bukit Merbau (Kelantan) for our troops in the event of counter-insurgency warfare.



Brigadier General Datuk Chong Thean Bok, Commander of 4 Infantry Brigade.

In support of the 4 Infantry Brigade, we provided combat engineers for counter-insurgency operations at hotspots in the Pahang-Perak border under the command of master tactician Brigadier-General Datuk Chong Thean Bok.

Meanwhile, our mission was to pursue Chong Chor, the chief of the MCP's 6th Assault Unit, and destroy his communist infrastructure, especially the food and ammunition dumps. Subsequently, Chong Chor was captured on March 2, 1988.

END OF HOSTILITIES



Headquarters 4 Infantry Division Group in August 1986.

In an unprecedented historic event on May 29, 1974, prime minister Razak, in good faith, made a goodwill visit to Mao Tse-tung, chairman of the People's Republic of China, as the first leader of an Asean country to forge peace with China in spite of the country's communist ideology.

Since then, Malaysia and China have established good diplomatic relations and increased trade with each other. Following China's open foreign policy in December 1978, president Deng Xiao Peng was instrumental in urging the MCP to seek peace with the Malaysian government in 1980.

China's support for MCP was then withdrawn. After 21½ years, the communist insurgency came to an end when the MCP agreed to lay down its arms. A peace deal was brokered over many months in 1989 by the Thai authorities in collaboration with our government.



Troops on standby for counter-insurgency operations.

On Dec 2, 1989, the peace treaty was signed between Malaysia and the MCP in Hat Yai, Southern Thailand.

Malaysia was represented by Armed Forces chief General Tan Sri Mohamad Hashim Mohd Ali and inspector-general of police Tan Sri Mohammed Hanif Omar, together with Home Ministry secretary-general Datuk Wan Sidek Wan Abdul Rahman.

The MCP delegation was led by Chin Peng, Abdullah C.D. (chairman) and Rashid Maidin (central committee member).

After 40 years, five months and 25 days from the beginning of the First Malayan Emergency on June 16, 1948, the communist insurgency in Malaysia finally came to an end on Dec 2, 1989.

As time passed by, we may have forgotten the fact that our nation had actually experienced armed conflicts over four decades (1948-1989) — the Malayan Emergency from 1948 to 1960, the Indonesian Confrontation from 1963 to 1966, and the second Emergency from 1968 to 1989.

May our nation remember and salute the thousands of fallen heroes and surviving veterans of our security forces. As a result, we've been able to enjoy three decades (1989-2022) of peace and prosperity.

May our younger generation appreciate these blessings of peace and freedom, even as the older generation have passed on to glory land. May the Almighty God bless our country with everlasting peace and prosperity for our posterity. Amen (So be it).

Ingenieur Lieutenant-Colonel (r) Raymond Goh Boon Pah KMN (Royal Engineers Veteran) is a graduate civil engineer from University of Malaya and combat engineer from College of Military Engineering in Pune, India. He's also a graduate in Defence Studies from the Malaysian Armed Forces Staff College and is a post-graduate in Defence Technology from the Royal Military College of Science in Shrivenham, England.

SUBMISSION SUPPLEMENTARY
ENQUIRY INTO MEDALLIC RECOGNITION
RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH



To assist the Tribunal with the question of expectation of casualties I submit the following short study of part of a large document from the following file reference. NAA; A1838, 696/4/5 Part 3, Barcode 1875396. It is a high level planning document, dated Oct 76, for 'Strategic and Political Aspects' of the RAAF presence at Butterworth.

The following extracts from this document, I would submit, clearly show that there could reasonably be an expectation of casualties surrounding the deployments at Airbase Butterworth. I select this document as a random example of the many documents now publicly available that portray the same picture, service personnel were on war-like service in Malaysia and it would be reasonable to expect casualties under the circumstances.¹

I would draw your attention to the common definition of an 'expectation' : ***a strong belief that something will happen or be the case.*** Given this, the notion of an 'expectation of casualties' seems to lose its relevance as it clearly would have to be judged prior to the event. This is highly unlikely in all the circumstances. It seems that it is currently being aired as a tool to review service recognition in retrospect which is counterintuitive as it refers to something in the future, not the past. Even if it is used in the evaluation of recognition of service, the question of whose expectation it is, remains open and unexplained.

¹ 19761022 Review of Butterworth Deployment Minute Ex-SECRET AUSTEO First Assistant Secretary R N Hamilton, Strategic and International Policy Division, Dept of Defence DEF 270/1/4 dated 22 Oct 76 Major paper with a 30 page attachment titled the RAAF Presence at Butterworth. Pp 9-10 reinforce the threat of insurgent attack on the base and underscores the true reason for deployment of RAAF remaining at ABB, and the need for army protection, while consideration is given to their relocation to Aust. This does not occur of course, until many years later. Clear evidence of the 110 ongoing need for RCB "ready to fight to defend RAAF assets".

That said, I will show that in any reasonable person's mind there would be an expectation of casualties in the circumstances in Malaysia during the period of the Communist Insurgency War 1970-1989.

Para 19 shows clearly that the base was closest to the nearest insurgent localities and was considered to be a possible target for attack. Under such circumstances casualties would be very likely.

Para 21 describes the types of attack that could be expected and that any such attack would likely involve endangerment of Australian personnel, their dependents as well as other assets and equipment. The expensive addition of revetments for the aircraft is another example of the fear of attack on the base. An attack on the base would inevitably mean that casualties should be expected.

Para 22 goes on to expand on the weaknesses and concerns surrounding an attack on the base. Particularly in regard to the Malaysians being committed to operations other than the protection of the base. Again the context is clearly directed at the warlike state of the country and the base which in turn would lead to casualties in the event of an attack.

Para 23 speaks of escalation and reinforcements that may be needed at short notice in terms of a 3 battalion task force minimum which Australia was not geared for. This level of planning is not something that could have been contemplated without expecting casualties.

That there was an expectation or possibility of casualties is starkly reinforced by the fact that Malaysian soldiers and police were killed in action whilst on operations against a known enemy. These statistics are well recorded in the RCBRG database. The notion that Australian personnel could be deployed into a country that was undoubtedly on a warlike footing and not expect casualties is farcical at best.

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8.

Political and Security Factors Affecting the Timing
of Mirage Withdrawal

(a) The Terrorist Threat

19. The CPM has attacked Security Force installations in the past. Although we assess that it would be unlikely for Australian personnel and equipment to be a deliberate target, it may conduct further attacks against military installations. Air Base Butterworth could be such a target. It is the ^{closest} most proximate to established terrorist localities and thus the most accessible to attack. The ^{Malaysian air force} ~~MAF~~ already uses it as a base for counter terrorist operations.

20. The likelihood of a terrorist attack endangering the RAAF deployment in the immediate future is presently assessed to be low. It would probably - but not necessarily - be associated with a significant escalation of CPM activity. This is presently assessed as unlikely. It would probably not occur without warning. *what means?*

21. If such an attack did occur, however, its implications would be serious. Its most likely form would be an attack of short duration on the base using indirect fire from light mortars or small rockets. There is also a possibility of discriminate or indiscriminate acts of terrorism in the Butterworth or Penang areas generally. In either case Australian personnel - including dependants - and equipment would be endangered. Action has recently been taken to construct revetments to give some protection to the Australian aircraft at Butterworth against attack. The need for

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improved security on and off the base has also been recognised.

(b) The Implications of Terrorist Attack or Threat

22. Were attacks on Butterworth to occur or be manifestly threatened the Australian Government would be deeply concerned to have assurance that its personnel and equipment deployed there were afforded full protection. Malaysian deployments would be dominated by essentially operational considerations extending well beyond the security of Butterworth along^e. Re-deployment from Butterworth to less exposed bases would be a practical option for the MAF itself. The Malaysians, being committed to operations, would not necessarily seek for their deployments in Butterworth the same level of security that would be sought by the Australian Government in respect of RAAF personnel and equipment. The RAAF ^dDeployment would moreover be firmly committed to remaining in the base and its environs. The problem of assuring the security of the Australian deployment would thus embrace possibilities of disagreement between the Malaysian and Australian Governments.

*For the
venture. Can
be that
much more
simply.*

Why?

23. The timely deployment of sufficient Australian ground forces to provide an assured defence for the RAAF deployment, even if practicable, would directly and deeply involve Australian forces for the first time in an internal security situation in Asia without significant physical support from a major ally. At the least a three Battalion Task Force would be required - possibly at short notice - for an indefinite period. This is beyond the present and planned capabilities of the Defence Force.

*Schmidt
thought*

✓

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