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TRAINING ASSISTANCE FOR SINGAPORE

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. William McMahon

Singapore has recently asked for training assistance in Australia for certain of its Armed Forces. The Australian Government has been considering the request this week and, in accordance with its long-standing policy of assisting the build-up of the defence capabilities of both Malaysia and Singapore in the Five Power context, has agreed in principle to allow the use of training facilities.

The Government is proposing that Singapore send a technical team to Australia to make an on-the-spot evaluation of the facilities which could be provided and to discuss practical aspects including logistics and maintenance. Firm details would then be worked out.

The facilities would be provided at existing Australian defence installations and the types of training under consideration are field and anti-aircraft artillery, air weapons and armoured vehicles.

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CANBERRA  
2 July 1971