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Now look to the future

THE first reaction to the decision of the Malaysian and Singapore Governments to go separate ways is one of cruel shock and profound regret.

There had been talk of "separate constitutional arrangements" earlier on in the "Malaysian Malaysia" controversy, but it had a distinctly speculative character.

In recent events, there had been nothing to prepare the public for yesterday's tragic news.

Rather, it had been hoped that Tengku Abdul Rahman and Mr. Lee Kuan Yew would succeed in putting an end to public acrimony.

Separation was the last thing the public expected.

What has happened is sad beyond words. It was plain from the first that making Malaysia work would be a challenge.

It was still plainer—in 1961-63—that the problems of partnership were to be preferred over the dangers that the continued separation of Singapore from Malaya would involve for both territories.

Bitter battle

The right to form Malaysia was won in a bitter and prolonged battle in which the leaders of Singapore and the Federation joined forces against common enemies within and without.

What has happened to the spirit of those early days? The dangers of separation have not vanished. The positive economic advantages of integration have not grown less. It is a thousand pities that the clock has been thus set back.

The split has already been formalised. Singapore became a separate nation at 10 a.m. yesterday. It is too late for appeals to reconsider.

Let there be no mistake, however, that the destinies of Malaysia and Singapore remain interwoven.

The two countries must make up their minds to live as good neighbours, even though they have decided they cannot live together as members of one family.

The agreement on separation provides for a treaty on external defence and mutual assistance, under which a joint defence council will be set up. Singapore will contribute forces, the right of the Malaysian Government to maintain military facilities on the island will be preserved, and each Government will undertake not to enter into foreign commitments detrimental to the independence and defence of the other.

The two Governments have also agreed to co-operate in economic affairs.

Good signs

Malaysia is to sponsor Singapore for membership of the United Nations.

These are good signs. Clearly, however, the worth of these declarations will depend on the general state of relations between the two Governments.

The need for circumspection in political attitudes and utterances has increased with separation, rather than diminished. Ties between independent countries are by nature more fragile, and more easily damaged by lack of ceremony, than relations between the parts of the same country.

In the days immediately ahead, leaders on both sides of the Causeway will be caught up in attempts to justify themselves to their followers, and it is perhaps inevitable that some hard things will be said. The explanations should be got over with quickly.

In time, it is to be hoped, the wounds will heal and the logic of Malaysia, unimpaired in its fundamentals, will reassert itself.

Tengku pledges support for admission to Commonwealth and United Nations



What it means—at a glance

- ALL Singapore citizens cease to be Malaysian citizens.
- ALL civil servants, including police and armed forces personnel, courts and judiciary, who became employees of the Malaysian Government on Malaysia Day, come under the Singapore Government once again.
- ALL civil servants employed

- by Federal departments in Singapore after Malaysia Day become forthwith employees of the Singapore Government.
- ALL properties taken over by the Malaysian Government on Malaysia Day are now properties of the Singapore Government.
- NO turn-over tax.
- BANK of China reverts to status quo.

- NO more Common Market arrangements as provided by Annex J of Malaysian Constitution.
- FULL control by Singapore Government over broadcasting and television.
- Unchanged are Singapore's water supply from Johore and maintenance by Central Government of military bases in Singapore.

Singapore is out

By FELIX ABISHEGANADEN: Kuala Lumpur, Monday

SINGAPORE today separated from Malaysia, following an amendment to the Constitution approved unanimously by both Houses of Parliament under a certificate of urgency.

Simultaneously with the passing of the amending Bill—to allow Singapore to leave Malaysia and become an independent and sovereign State—a proclamation to this effect was gazetted.

At a Press conference this evening, Tengku Abdul Rahman announced that Malaysia would sponsor Singapore's admission into the United Nations and as a member of the Commonwealth.

At his own conference in Singapore, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew called on his people to remain firm and calm. His eyes brimming with tears, he declared: "What has happened has happened. Everybody will have a place in Singapore and will continue helping the Malays in competition with Umno."

Secret signing

Today's dramatic turn follows the secret signing of the Independence of Singapore Agreement last Saturday by leaders of the two Governments.

This document provides a treaty on external defence and mutual assistance between the two Governments and stipulates that:

BOTH GOVERNMENTS will establish a joint defence council for external defence and mutual assistance;

THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT will give "reasonable and adequate" assistance for Singapore's external defence.

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Tengku: It was my idea...

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.—

Tengku Abdul Rahman confirmed tonight that it was his idea that Singapore should withdraw from Malaysia and become independent.

Otherwise, he said at a special Press conference, there was "no hope for peace."

He confirmed, too, that only he and a "few" of his Cabinet colleagues were aware of the separation move. Alliance MPs were told of it at 9.40 this morning—five minutes before the Constitution Amendment Bill was ready.

How was the separation move conceived? The Tengku gave this background:

"When I was in hospital in London I had plenty of time to think from 'A' to 'Z' and backwards from 'Z' to 'A' of our problems with Singapore."

Razak met Lee

"My conclusion: There would be no end to the bickerings with Singapore except perhaps if Mr. Lee Kuan Yew is made Prime Minister in the real sense of the word."

From his hospital bed the Tengku wrote to Tun Razak, telling him exactly how he felt about relations with Singapore and asking him to talk things over with Mr. Lee.

At this stage, Tun Razak, who was present at the conference, interjected: "I met Mr. Lee. I found it impossible. Our minds did not meet on most points..."

Did Mr. Lee know the consequences of what would happen if he did not see eye to eye with the Central Government? Tun Razak was asked— "Certainly he did."

Tun Razak made a full report of his talks with Mr. Lee and gave this to the Tengku when he returned home last Thursday.

Emergency meeting

After studying the report, the Tengku met Mr. Lee on Friday and "made things clear to him," but still there was "no hope for compromise."

That night, the Tengku held an emergency meeting of the Cabinet and directed the drafting of the Bill to amend the Constitution and get Singapore to withdraw from Malaysia.

On Saturday, the Tengku said, the "big shots" of the PAP called at the Residency to sign the separation agreement. The majority of the PAP Cabinet Ministers signed the agreement in Singapore.

Besides the Tengku and Tun Razak, these Ministers signed for the Central Government:

The Minister for Home Affairs, Dato (Dr.) Ismail bin Dato Abdul Rahman, the Minister for Works, Posts and Telecommunications, Dato V.T. Sambanthan, and the Minister for Finance Mr. Tan Siew Sin.

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THE TENGKU: No hope for peace unless Singapore withdrew from Malaysia.

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STOP PRESS

Raja is named Foreign Minister

SINGAPORE, Mon.—

Mr. Lee Kuan Yew today reshuffled his 10-man Cabinet in his first executive act as leader of a completely independent Singapore. The main changes:

DR. GOH KENG SWEE becomes Minister for Defence and Security; **MR. S. RAJARATNAM**, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Culture;

MR. LIM KIM SAN, Minister for Finance; and **MR. E. W. BARKER**, Minister for Law and National Development.

Federal matters

DR. TOH CHIN CHYE, the Deputy Premier, takes on all the departments and subjects which became Federal matters on Malaysia Day.

These are: Civil aviation, immigration, meteorology, postal services, telecommunications, Registry of Births and Deaths, Registry of Persons, Registry of Vehicles, Prisons, cables, roads, transport and telephones.

Four other Ministries remain unchanged: Mr. Ong Pang Boon, Minister for Education; Mr. Yong Nvuk Lin, Minister for Health; Mr. Jek Yeun T'ong, Minister for Labour; and Inche Othman Wok, Minister for Social Affairs, retain their present portfolios.

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