

~~SECRET~~

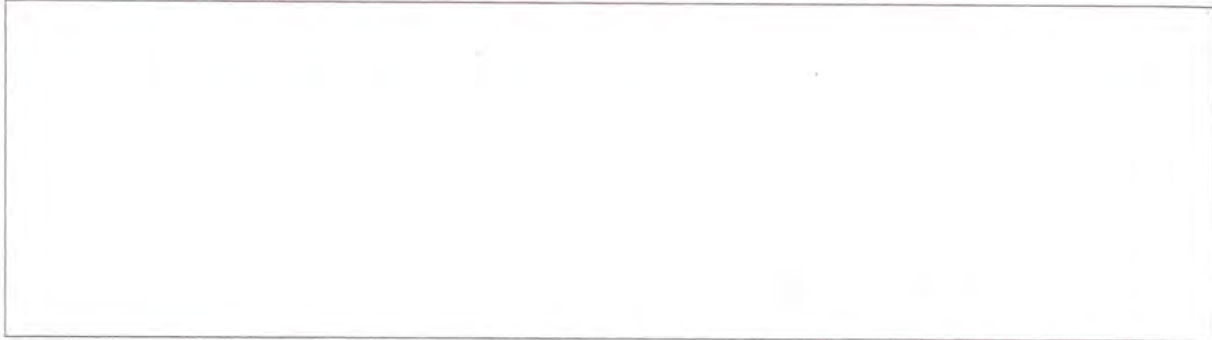
Briefing Note for the
Planning Board 10/9/59



SEB:gp
October 8, 1959

U.S. Policy in Mainland Southeast Asia: Singapore

1. The new Board Assistants' draft is more general than the last draft and incorporates most of the suggestions made at the Planning Board.
2. There is no split between the Board Assistants although the possibility of a split on Para. 69B is still considerable (discussed below).
3. NSC Staff dropped its proposals that the paper should include:
 - (a) a provision for increased consultation between the U.S. and other friendly countries on Singapore's problems. State and others felt that this was adequately implied especially in paragraph 67, as well as in 68, 69, 69B, and 69C. NSC Staff does not recommend that this be pressed further.
 - (b) a provision for increased exchange programs directed at university-level Singapore Chinese. State Department and others feel this is an operations sentence. NSC Staff, at this stage, believes the problem might best be tackled in the OCB.
4. Para. 66 sets the stage for the paper and defines our long-range objective. The "cooperate with the United States" clause pegs the paper to U.S.-Singapore relations and probably should be kept, instead of substituting "Free World" as someone is almost certain to suggest. In no sense does this clause preclude cooperation with other Free World countries, which is implied throughout the paper.
5. Para. 67 recognizes the serious political situation that has developed due to the swing to the left in the 30 May elections and sets forth short-range objectives.



6. Under the present language of para. 68, the U.S. is required to consult only with the UK and the Federation; after which it is free to take independent action. The "if appropriate" clause makes consultation

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED with deletions
Authority NLE 2012-113 #2
By MMK NLDDE Date 1/8/14

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

with elements in Singapore or "other interested parties" a matter of choice in the prevailing situation. In Para. 20, it would appear that the interpretation of "local desire" in the case of Singapore must be three-fold: the UK, the Federation and Singapore. Thus, the U.S. could take measures if it assumed that there was a desire on the part of one, two or three parties.

Treasury may argue that "local desire" means the British only.

Suggested editorial change: In 4th line delete "be prepared" and substitute "as necessary"; in 5th line change "be" to "being".

7. Para. 69 refers back to para. 19 which subjects U.S. actions to "local request". There continues to be some feeling that this should not be retained in the case of Singapore due to its importance as a Free World base, etc. There are many purely hypothetical situations in which the U.S. might conceivably be hamstrung by such a clause. However, does it not appear that the language in para. 19 suffices for the foreseeable future?

8. Para. 69A makes it clear that the United States does not desire federation until the Communist problem in Singapore has been dealt with sufficiently to make federation safe; but continues to provide for, utilizing Singapore's desire for federation.

The following editorial change:

On the 2nd and 5th lines, delete "we should."

9. The achievement of an agreed version of Para. 69B continues to be the most difficult problem of the paper. The last sentence of the present version is a definite improvement over earlier drafts. However, it is questionable whether State will be prepared to accept the language of the 2nd sentence which is conditioned by the clause "to the extent desired by the UK". It also seems unlikely that Treasury will abandon it, basing its argument on para. 38 of Basic Policy.

10. Para. 69C is unchanged except for the substitution of "serious misunderstanding" for "major cleavage" in the last two lines.

11. With reference to the footnote on page 5, a State Department representative queried the British Embassy and was told that nominally the usage of "the State of Singapore" was correct, but that its status in international law continued to be "the Crown Colony of Singapore."

12. Bob Amory has directed that an NIE on Singapore be prepared for distribution on 21 October - the day before the policy paper goes before the Council. (The horse is finally catching up with the cart!) See footnote on p. 5 of present blue draft.

13. The two paragraphs that have been attached in lieu of a financial appendix are not meant to become a part of the paper adopted by the Council.

~~SECRET~~