

Singapore Premier Invites Newsmen To His Talk Today With U.S. Envoy

From News Dispatches
 Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore will meet today with James D. Bell, U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia, and has invited press, radio and television newsmen to cover the session.

The unusual publicity arrangements were linked yesterday to Lee's charge on Tuesday—and a virtual U.S. admission after a previous denial—that a U.S. official offered him a \$3 million bribe in 1960 not to reveal that a CIA agent was caught trying to buy state secrets in Singapore.

But Associated Press re-

ported that Lee and Bell would probably discuss American representation in Singapore, which broke away from Malaysia last month. Bell, in Kuala Lumpur, declined to say what they would talk about.

In Kuala Lumpur, the joint Malaysia-Singapore Defense Council met and reaffirmed the decision that Britain should keep its Singapore bases. Malaysian Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman said there would have to be a new agreement to fit Singapore's independence. The decision to maintain the status quo came after Lee had stated that Singapore could expel Britain from the bases if it wanted to.

Meanwhile, Indonesia's confrontation of Malaysia—which gives the Singapore bases much of their importance—continued. Indonesian planes machine-gunned a small village across the Borneo border in Sarawak Wednesday, reports from Kuching said yesterday. No one was killed, but the attack was described as Indonesia's first by air. Officials reported stepped-up guerrilla activity on the ground.

Singapore applied for admis-

sion to the United Nations yesterday.

House Unit Asks State To Explain Bribe Denial

Associated Press

A congressional committee called on the State Department and CIA yesterday to explain why a formal denial of a \$3 million bribery incident that took place in Singapore in 1960 backfired to the embarrassment of the U.S. Government.

Rep. Clement J. Zablocki (D-Wis.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on the Far East, said closed hearings will be held after the Labor Day recess to obtain an explanation from responsible officials on bribery allegations brought by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

State Department officials were taken aback Tuesday when Lee released a letter from Secretary of State Dean Rusk that apologized for improper activities by American agents and promised disciplinary action.

Zablocki said it was "most unfortunate" that the State Department had issued a formal denial of the bribery charge on Tuesday and then had reversed itself on Wednesday.

"It is not too difficult to look back to what action Prime Minister Lee was talking about," Zablocki said. He refused to elaborate.