

Singapore Chief Vows to Spurn U.S. Help if British Quit Base

Special to The New York Times

SINGAPORE, Aug. 30 — Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew declared Monday that he would never turn to the United States if Britain withdrew her military presence from Singapore.

He said that "by and large" the United States Administration lacked the "depth and judgment or wisdom which comes out of an accumulation of knowledge of human beings and human situations over a long period of time." He said the British did possess these qualities.

Mr. Lee enunciated this firm rejection of the United States during an interview. He said he could look to a time when the presence of British troops might not be necessary. But he said Singapore would maintain an arrangement in any case where by tanks and helicopters and all the rest could be sent in rapidly in an emergency.

Mr. Lee viewed as the greatest danger a "growing disillusionment" among the British people "with all this defense role east of Suez."

British Can Play 'Big Role'

"If I were a Britisher," he asserted, "I would think my bargaining position with the Americans much better if I can play a counter role here. And the British can play a very big role."

Should Britain withdraw from her military installations here, Mr. Lee said he is prepared to turn to the Australians and the New Zealanders but not to the Americans. The Prime Minister recounted personal experiences with Americans, who he said

had unintentionally done great harm.

In 1960, he said, an American C.I.A. agent was arrested after an apparent attempt to bribe and subvert Singapore intelligence authorities and a Special Branch officer. Later, the Prime Minister went on, it was discovered there had been a mistake.

"He was not really trying," Mr. Lee declared. "The man was looking for a place of assignation to seek comfort. Do you get confidence in an outfit like that? That is how the Bay of Pigs takes place."

Mr. Lee said he had told the American Government: "All right, we keep quiet, you take this man away, \$100 million to the Singapore Government for economic development."

He went on: "Through an intermediary they offered me and my party \$10 million. I mean, the insult! I told them, you can keep it."

He described another incident in which he said he had asked the American Ambassador in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to request the help of an American medical specialist in treating a sick friend in Singapore. He was informed that the specialist was busy in Geneva but would help if the patient could be flown there, Mr. Lee asserted.

U.S. Comment Unavailable

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 30— Authoritative comment on Mr. Lee's statements were not available here.