

British Give Up Last Malaysian Base

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Dec. 4 (Reuters) — The last British base in Malaysia, a guerrilla warfare school in the jungles of Johore, is being handed over to this country's armed forces for the nominal sum of one Malaysian dollar.

This will not be the end of Britain's association with the school, which was founded at the end of World War II at Kota Tinggi on the southeastern tip of the Malay Peninsula.

After turning over the base, on Wednesday, Britain will be permitted to use it for six months each year to train her infantrymen in antiguerrilla methods.

Britain has been putting some 3,000 men through the course annually. But even if three two-month courses can be completed in the six months, the graduation rate is expected to be about 700 men short.

Negotiations are continuing on the cost to Britain of using the camp's facilities and on the charges for certain training courses to be run by the Malaysians.

This arrangement will be tied up with the cost to Malaysia of using British experts



The New York Times/Dec. 5, 1971

while Malaysia trains her own instructors.

Malaysia has said that she would like to use British instructors who are attached to joint Australian, New Zealand and British forces, based in Singapore under a five-nation defense agreement.

Malaysia has appointed a 39-year-old, British-trained officer, Col. Lai Ching-wah, as commanding officer of the school, and Lieut. Col. Syed Abdul Aziz, of the Royal Malaysian Rangers, as chief instructor.

Colonel Lai will replace the

British commandant, Lieut. Col. John Cross, who is 46 years old and has 27 years of experience in Asia and has mastered many Asian languages.

Colonel Cross has been largely responsible for maintaining the school's high reputation and has been praised by the United States Army's Green Berets, many of whom took the course after initial training in Florida and on Okinawa.

Britain has also trained men at the school who were from Nepal, South Vietnam, Thailand, Ceylon, Burma, The Philippines, South Korea, Guiana, Brunei, Ghana and Indonesia.

In addition, hundreds of troops from New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and Malaysia who have been stationed in the area have graduated from the school.

Britain has expressed the wish to continue training soldiers of other nations, especially South Vietnam, and Malaysia is considering making additional facilities available for this.

Malaysia has offered the Commonwealth forces that are stationed in Singapore the unlimited facilities of the school.