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**MANATŪ KAUPAPA
WAONGA**
NEW ZEALAND
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

9 September 2025

RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 24 August 2025, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

I wish to request all policy/diplomatic documents relating to New Zealand's involvement in the:

- 'Malay Emergency' and the
- 'Confrontation' between Indonesia and Malaysia.

In particular, I am after cabinet papers on the conflicts, Military discussion with other nations, as well as (secret and public) diplomatic correspondence discussing the conflicts.

The Ministry of Defence (the Ministry) is a civilian agency that is responsible for the development of defence policy, international defence engagements, and the delivery of major capability projects. We are a separate agency to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), who is responsible for the three military services and their associated outputs.

The Ministry has not identified any information we hold that is relevant to your request. Therefore, your request has been declined pursuant to section 18(g)(i) of the Act, that the information requested is not held by the department, or the Minister of the Crown or organisation and that the person dealing with the request has no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department, or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

For context, the public service and defence reforms of the late 1980s affected how records from that period were managed. The Defence Act 1990 separated the former Ministry into the two current agencies – the NZDF and the current Ministry, with records allocated according to the functions assigned under the Act.

We consider it likely that information on this topic from this time is now held by Archives New Zealand. Using their online search tool, the following archives may be relevant to your enquiry on the 'Malaya Emergency' and the 'Confrontation' between Indonesia and Malaysia. Please note, this is not an exhaustive list.

File	ID	Date Range	Transferring Agency	Access
Defence Policy – Aid to Singapore - Malaysia	R17190004	1974 – 1974	Ministry of Defence Headquarters	Open Access
International – Aid To Malaysia And Singapore	R23567002	1973 – 1975	Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force	Open Access
Establishments – Personnel Seconded to Malaysian Army	R17188378	1968 – 1969	Ministry of Defence Headquarters	Open Access
Malaya – Commonwealth Contribution to Defence – Deployment and Direction of Commonwealth Forces in Malaya after Independence	R23447681	1956 – 1962	Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force	Open Access
Australia New Zealand and Malaya – Defence Of Malaya – Deployment Of Commonwealth Forces In Malaya.	R23567114	1957 – 1965	Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force	Open Access
Attachments – New Zealand Territorial Officers and Non Commissioned Officers to Malaysia	R17188601	1961 - 1975	Ministry of Defence Headquarters	Open Access
Indonesia: External Relations – Malaysia States – Economic and Political – Confrontation – Including New Zealand's Position	R23601947	1961 – 1964	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Head Office	Open Access
Indonesia: External Relations – Malaysia States – Economic and Political – Confrontation – Including New Zealand's Position [08/1966 – 12/1970]	R23602049	1966 – 1970	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Head Office	May be restricted

Please visit the Archives New Zealand website to learn more about accessing these records: <https://www.archives.govt.nz/>.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to request the Ombudsman to investigate and review this response.

Yours sincerely

Hamish Rogers
Deputy Secretary, Governance People and Executive Services