

APPENDIX A

DIRECTIVE TO GENERAL SIR GERALD WALTER ROBERT TEMPLER, KCB, KBE, CMG, DSO, ADC, HIGH COMMISSIONER IN AND FOR THE FEDERATION OF MALAYA, BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES ON BEHALF OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE U.K., 1 FEBRUARY 1952

The policy of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom is that Malaya should in due course become a fully self-governing nation. His Majesty's Government confidently hope that that nation will be within the British Commonwealth.

2. In assisting the peoples of Malaya to achieve that object, you will at all times be guided by the declaration of policy expressed in the preamble of the Federation of Malaya Agreement and by the statement of the special responsibilities of the High Commissioner contained in Section 19 of that Agreement.

3. To achieve a united Malayan nation there must be a common form of citizenship for all who regard the Federation or any part of it as their real home and the object of their loyalty.

4. It will be your duty to guide the peoples of Malaya towards the attainment of these objectives and to promote such political progress of the country as will, without prejudicing the campaign against the terrorists, further our democratic aims in Malaya.

5. The ideal of a united Malayan nation does not involve the sacrifice by any community of its traditional culture and customs, but before it can be fully realized the Malays must be encouraged and assisted to play a

full part in the economic life of the country, so that the present uneven economic balance may be redressed. It will be your duty to foster this process to the best of your ability.

6. His Majesty's Government believe that the British have a mission to fulfil in the achievement of these objects, and that, even after self-government has been attained, the British in Malaya will have a worthy and continuing part to play in the life of the country.

7. Communist terrorism is retarding the political advancement and economic development of the country and the welfare of its peoples. Your primary task in Malaya must, therefore, be the restoration of law and order, so that this barrier to progress may be removed. Without victory and the state of law and order which it alone can bring, there can be no freedom from fear, which is the first human liberty.

8. In furtherance of your task, not only will you fulfil the normal functions of High Commissioner, but you will assume complete operational command over all Armed Forces assigned to operations in the Federation and will be empowered to issue operational orders to their Commanders without reference to the Commanders-in-Chief, Far East. You should establish the closest cooperation between yourself and the Commanders-in-Chief, Far East, in matters of common concern.

9. You may assure the Malayan peoples of all communities that they can count on the powerful and continuing assistance of His Majesty's Government not only in the immediate task of defending the terrorists but in the longer term objective of forging a united Malayan nation. His Majesty's Government will not lay aside their responsibilities in Malaya until they are satisfied that Communist terrorism has been defeated and that the partnership of all communities, which alone can lead to true and stable self-government, has been firmly established.¹

Note

1. CO 1022/103, Directive to General Sir Gerald Templer, 1 February 1952.

APPENDIX B

GENERAL SIR GERALD TEMPLER: A SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

General (later Field Marshal) Sir Gerald Templer, KG, GCB, CB, GCMG, KBE, DSO (1898–1979) had a traditional military education at Wellington College and the Royal Military College (RMC), Sandhurst (1915). He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Irish Fusiliers on 16 August 1916 and after the war, he served with them in Persia and Mesopotamia until he returned to England in 1922. He attended the British Army's Staff College from January 1928 to December 1929. He then served as a company commander in Egypt and Palestine during the Arab rebellions 1935–36, and was awarded a DSO and Bar and a Mention in Despatches.

At the outbreak of World War II, he was a Major, acting Lieutenant Colonel, at the War Office, London, and in September 1939, he served as an intelligence officer at the headquarters of the British Expeditionary Force in France under Major General Sir F.N. Mason-Macfarlane. After he returned to England, he became Brigadier General Staff under General B.L. Montgomery, then commanding XII Corps, and was thereafter one of Montgomery's most fervent admirers.

In 1942, at the age of forty-four he became the youngest Lieutenant General in the British Army and he served briefly in North Africa and Italy. He reverted to the rank of Major General to command the 56th Infantry Division and then the 6th Armoured Division in Italy, where he was wounded in 1944 when a land mine blew up the army lorry in front of his staff car while travelling in convoy. The looted contents of the lorry fell on top of him and damaged his spine, and he was evacuated to England. He then worked in the War Office until he became Director of Civil Affairs in the British Zone of Germany under Montgomery, who

was by then a Field Marshal commanding the British 21st Army Group. He regarded this period as valuable experience for Malaya although his time in Germany was marred by his having been involved in the summary dismissal at the end of World War II of Dr Konrad Adenauer, then Mayor of Cologne, for incompetence and inefficiency.

On his return to the United Kingdom after Germany, General Templer filled several senior posts at the War Office until he became Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Command, England, and in 1952 he was appointed High Commissioner and Director of Operations, Malaya (1952–54).

He became Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS) (1955–58), a post which he had long been promised, and was appointed Field Marshal on 27 November 1956.

According to his official biographer, Field Marshal Lord Carver, who wrote the entry for Templer in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (2004), Templer's period as CIGS was an "unhappy one", including as it did "the fiasco of Suez and the reductions in the size of the army resulting from the decision of the British Government to work towards the end of conscription", an unpleasant disagreement he had with Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten over the Suez fiasco, and his extreme distaste at the abandonment of British imperial responsibilities.¹

Note

1. See ABC-CLIO *Encyclopedia of WWII Political, Social and Military History*, 2010, and Michael Carver, "Templer, Sir Gerald Walter Robert (1898–1979)", *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).