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The Rt Hon Phillip Hammond MP
Secretary of State for Defence

Dear Secretary of State,

Welcome to your new post. Forgive me if so early in your brief I ask for your support with a prickly subject I have been dealing with for some time. I am the National Chairman of the Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association that numbers 28 Branches across the UK and some thousands of members. Some time ago the King of Malaysia, The Yang di-Pertuan Agong awarded and paid for a medal to be presented to all Veterans who had served in Malaysia on operations between 1957, when Independence was granted to them, until 1966 when we withdrew our forces from that part of the world.

During the time of the last Government Her Majesty agreed that we may receive the medal, but the recommendation to her Majesty was that we should not wear it. You will be briefed about a five year rule and double medaling and whilst we are not necessarily asking for those rules to be changed, we *are* asking for a precedent to be made in relation to the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal to allow us to wear it.

You will be aware that the House of Lords, on 10th October, voted in favour of the right to wear the medal. Their Amendment 6 to **HL Bill 76** refers, which actually reads:

“Lords Amendment 6 would insert a new section 339A in AFA 2006. That section would provide that medals awarded by Commonwealth governments to present or former members of the armed forces and other Crown servants – including the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal – may be worn without restriction.”

I ask nothing more of you than to support the gist of this amendment when the Armed Forces Bill passes through the House of Commons this coming week on Wednesday. Permission to wear the PJM will cost the Government nothing. We already have the medal. All we ask is for permission to wear it.

My submission to you is supported not only by all our Members but also by our Association President, General Sir Garry Johnson KCB, OBE, MC, DSC (Hon).

Yours sincerely

Tex Pemberton

Lieutenant Colonel Tex Pemberton OBE
Chairman
National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association.