SINGAPORE'S DEFENCE POLICY TOWARDS MALAYSIA:
A POLICY OF A FRIGHTENED STATE?

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis paper is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

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ABSTRACT

Singapore is a small state in the midst of a large Malay environment. It attained its independence in 1965 by the expulsion from Malaysia. There is a fear in Singapore that Malaysia is hostile, hence it must have credible military forces to ensure its survival. Despite this military perception, both countries enjoy a 'love-hate' relationship due to many common interests and the overall Malaysia-Singapore bilateral relation is cordial. However, there is some element of security dilemma between both countries. Singapore's strong military capability is merely a reflection of Singapore's besieged mentality and not a real threat to the Malaysia. The present trend in international relations is to pursue security through cooperation rather than military confrontation. This can also be seen in the Malaysia-Singapore bilateral relation. The objective of this study is to analyse the implication of Malaysia's defence capabilities on Singapore's threat perception. This study also examines the Singapore defence capabilities, its modernization and its impact on the Malaysia and Singapore relations and whether Singapore really fears Malaysia. The methodology of the study is qualitative and based on secondary data.
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