Whither the new village: 60-year legacy of the Briggs Plan

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THE British were stumped. How do you fight an enemy that moved like the shadows, with skin and nail that blended with the belukar, and a spirit that mocked death? The communists were proving to be a stubborn lot. It called for a bold plan - quite possibly Malaya's grandest of mega projects - and it had to be executed with little margin for error.

Today we remember it as the <u>Briggs Plan</u> after its founder, Sir Harold Briggs, a General with the British armed forces.

It was launched 60 years ago on June 1, 1950 as a multifaceted operation to cut off the support and supply network of the Malayan National Liberation Army (MNLA) during the Malayan . It

set out to win the "the hearts and minds" of the rural Chinese and the sprawling pockets of squatters just outside the main urban centres throughout the country. It was also during this period that the Police

Special Branch

acquired its reputation as being one of the best undercover intelligence agencies in the world.









