

بروني دارالسلام

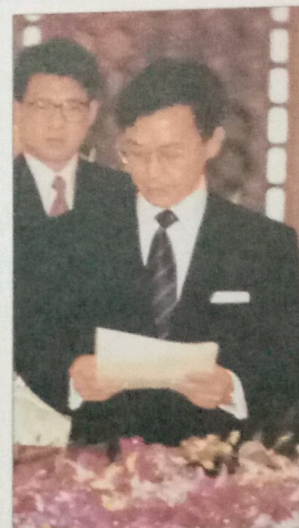
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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The visit of Thailand's Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Chuan Leekpai to Brunei Darussalam renews the longstanding relations between the two regional partners, said His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during a dinner in honour of the Thai leader, picture above left. Present at the function were His Majesty's brothers, Their Royal Highnesses Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, second from left, Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah, far right, and Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, far left. The Thai Premier, above right, also himself spoke of the warm relations between the two ASEAN neighbours.

Brunei Darussalam-Thailand relations 'very close' : HM

Private sector's participation could further enhance ties

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has called on the private sector in Brunei Darussalam and Thailand to participate in the further enhancement of the close relations between the two countries.

The Brunei monarch said traditionally these relations have been strengthened through cooperation in various fields, including in areas of human resource development and technical training.

Speaking at a dinner he hosted in honour of the Thai Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Chuan Leekpai who was on a two-day visit to Brunei

Darussalam beginning 22 May, His Majesty added that such relations have been further reaffirmed through exchanges of visits at the highest level which have brought great benefits to both countries.

His Majesty expressed his appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for providing valuable opportunities and facilities to officials from Brunei Darussalam to undergo training courses, and said he was most happy with the way that Brunei-Thai bilateral relations are conducted.

"I am confident that these (relations) will also be enhanced through the participation of our private sector".

For the future of ASEAN, said the

ruler, we look towards the ASEAN Free Trade Area or AFTA to provide us opportunities for a more extensive regional cooperation and development.

"I believe this will increase the pace of the economic development of our region besides maintaining the stability which we in ASEAN have the good fortune to enjoy all these years".

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, at the same time, pointed out that for the long term, the future of the region is greatly dependent on the successful resolution of the situation in Cambodia.

"Our hope is that Cambodia will

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 June, 1993. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-225941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

Stepping up cooperation with dialogue partners

The Eleventh ASEAN-US Dialogue began today in Bandar Seri Begawan, 15 May, at the International Convention Centre.

In an opening statement, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng said that since the last dialogue meeting in Washington D.C. in June 1991, they have noted important policy directions given by ASEAN leaders at the Fourth Summit in Singapore last year.

One of the most important of these was the call for ASEAN to use established fora to promote external dialogue on enhancing security in the region. In reviewing ASEAN's external relations, the Summit also agreed that as part of an increasingly interdependent world, ASEAN should intensify cooperation relationships with its dialogue partners.

These directions clearly emphasize the importance of the meeting today, said the Permanent Secretary as it is in the presence of the ASEAN Senior Officials and the inclusion in its agenda, discussions of issues of broadly political in character. The scope of the dialogue in other words, has widened.

ASEAN has existed for over 25 years. Past dialogues have tended to focus on development cooperation. With regard to future dialogue relations, there may now be a need to reassess future dialogue relations, Dato Lim said.

"The 11th ASEAN-US Dialogue Meeting has started such a process of consultation, especially during discussions on international and regional political issues. This, we believe is a prerequisite if we are to address economic issues successfully."

The dialogue meeting therefore provided an early opportunity to consider the basis of ASEAN-US relationship at a time when the international situation is extremely fluid and sometimes changes from week to week.

At such a time, it is therefore extremely important to develop strong person to person relations, the Permanent Secretary pointed out. These can help provide that vital certainty and trust which must underline any successful relationship.

"Whether our considerations are

directed towards political issues, economic matters or social development in general, our problems will diminish if they can be addressed from within a framework of cooperation which has been constructed out of friendship and mutual understanding" Dato Lim concluded.

Opening statement by Assistant Secretary of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, US Department of State

In his opening statement, the Assistant Secretary of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, US State Department, His Excellency Mr Winston Lord focused, among others, on trade and economic issues as well as security matters.

security

The United States will continue to base security in the Pacific on alliances and other bilateral security relationships, the Assistant Secretary said.

"We will maintain our forward-deployed forces in the region both to deal with specific contingencies and to contribute to regional stability. Testimony to our continued engagement in regional security issues is our active involvement in seeking solutions to the most immediate challenges in Cambodia and North Korea, both crucial issues which we will be discussing in these meetings."

The United States has enormous stakes in contributing to political stability in Southeast Asia and all of Asia. But he said, "solid and expanding economic ties will guarantee our capability - and the support of our citizens - for our continued active engagement in the range of critical security issues in the Pacific."

"We also face international challenges today that are different from but as great as those we confronted during the Cold War because they require more cooperation among diverse nations. Although the Cold War is over," he added, "we have not yet established the peace. New regional conflicts - in Asia, Europe and Africa - challenge the world community to act together

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Forge joint-ventures and plan strategies to take advantage of AFTA: Minister to businessmen

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources has urged members of the Brunei Chinese Chamber of Commerce to forge joint-ventures with Malay entrepreneurs and stressed that the private sector in the country should also adopt strategies to take advantage of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

Joint-ventures

Joint-ventures of "Ali" and "Baba" in nature (should) not entail taking advantage of the privileges and influence of "Ali", the Minister said in his speech at the International Convention Centre, May 25. These should rather involve the meaningful participation of both partners to ensure mutual benefit, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman said at the function to commemorate the 46th anniversary of the Brunei Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

For the past four decades, the Brunei Chinese Chamber has contributed and played a significant role in the economic development of the country, the Minister said.

"What is clear is that the leadership provided by the Brunei Chinese Chamber of Commerce has not only brought great success to its members but it has also established an extensive business network both at the regional and international levels."

Hardwork is not the only reason behind this success, the Minister observed. It is also due to the "guanxi" culture practised among the Chinese, which stresses the spirit of cooperation and mutual help among family members, neighbours and close friends. This practice which has been incorporated into the "business ethic" has enabled this group to expand from small business enterprises into larger companies.

"In a context of a small country like Brunei Darussalam, the Chinese and the Malays could be regarded as forming one family in general. Family ties and a sense of neigh-

bourliness is a way of life among the Malays, but these have not yet been fully absorbed in the context of economic development of the Malays."

This should not however be taken to mean that the Malays are not capable (in business) but the main obstacle is the absence of a business network capable of helping the Malay entrepreneurs to further expand (their enterprise), the Minister pointed out.

"In this regard," the Minister added "I feel that the Chinese businessmen have the responsibility and role to involve Malay entrepreneurs in the existing network of the country. The guanxi culture should be extended to the Malay entrepreneurs as well as a way of life (for both groups of) one community."

Together, they can expand both regionally and internationally, the Minister added.

Yang Berhormat further reiterated the importance of close cooperation among members of the private sector and pointed out that this was the key towards the country's economic diversification. This would further attract foreign investors to participate in the economic development of the country.

"I am confident that cooperation based on GUANXI which rests on the principle of mutual benefit, mutual trust and sincerity, will steer the country towards a more dynamic economic achievement."

Open economy

This government's policy on trade and investment is clear, the Minister also stated. In his 45th birthday titah, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has already underlined that the economic development of the country must go through an "open" economic process.

His Majesty also welcomed foreign investment with the assurances provided for investors in the form of trade and investment policies which benefit all concerned.

Support economic policies of Government

"In my opinion, the assurance given for foreign investment, is enough to prove that the strategy of economic development as implemented by the Government will not jeopardise the interests of anyone in the country. Therefore there should not be any grievances (or) doubt in the country's economic development policies among local entrepreneurs. On the contrary, we should support the policies in a rational manner to make them a success."

Any economic development programme has to go through a dynamic and complex process. The approach taken by some other countries may not necessarily be applicable in our country, explained Yang Berhormat.

Our country has its own interests, culture and history, he stressed.

Plan strategy to identify area for regional export

The Minister also urged all chambers of commerce in the country to contribute (in the development and diversification of the economy) and provide (the Ministry and departments concerned with any feedback to create a more conducive investment climate in the country).

The trend today is veering towards penetrating larger markets, said the Minister. We should therefore plan (our) strategies and identify any regionally and competitive-oriented markets.

The year 1993 marks a milestone for ASEAN with the ASEAN Free Trade Area, AFTA. The chambers of commerce in the country should take appropriate measures and exploit the opportunities provided by the lower tax levies in the country and identify the type of investment for regional export, the Minister stressed.

All the chambers of commerce in the country should be more aggressive to intensify the pace of the country's economic development, the Minister concluded.

Ruler grants audiences to Iranian and Japanese ministers, and appoints two new judges



Above: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granting an audience to Japan's Minister of Trade and Industry, His Excellency Mr. Yoshiro Mori, and below, the Brunei ruler grants an audience to His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Foreign Affairs Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran



Two visiting ministers to Brunei Darussaalm earlier this month were granted audiences at Istana Nurul Iman by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry, His Excellency Mr. Yoshiro Mori who was leading a delegation on a one-day working visit, was granted an audience by

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents letters of appointment of Justice Derek Cons, picture above left, and to Justice Kutlu Tekin Fuad on their respective appointments as Commissioner of the High Court and President of the Court of Appeals.

the Brunei monarch on 4 May.

A press release issued after discussion between the Japanese minister and Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, said that Japan may increase its investment and technical cooperation with the Sultanate.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and delegation was in Brunei Darussalam on a one-day official visit.

His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati was granted an audience by His Majesty on 10 May.

During the ceremony, the Brunei monarch and the visiting Iranian minister exchanged views on bilateral issues.

Earlier, the minister called on his Bruneian counterpart, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan. They discussed bilateral and regional political issues.

At a ceremony on 17 May, also at Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam appointed and swore in two judges one as President of the Appeals Court, the other as Commissioner of the High Court, both for a three-year term effective from 17 May.

Justice Kutlu Tekin Fuad, 67, who has previously served as Commissioner of the High Court for two terms from November 1983 to November 1986, and again from November 1988 to November 1991, is now President of the Court of Appeals.

Justice Derek Cons, 65, who has previously served three terms as Commissioner of the High Court, 1974-1977, 1979-1982 and 1984-1987, is again appointed as the current Commissioner of the High Court. Justice Derek Cons was also the Acting President of the Court of Appeals in 1989.

Customs authorities in ASEAN working together

The ASEAN Customs Administrations have worked actively and made indispensable contributions towards a closer and expanded cooperation among member countries. One area which merits particular mention is the Agreement on the Common Effective Preferential Tariff scheme for the ASEAN Free Trade Area, the Controller of the Royal Customs and Excise, Ministry of Finance said this month.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Cheteria Sahibon Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar was speaking at the official opening of the 7th Meeting of the ASEAN Working group in Customs Matters, 12 May.

The ASEAN Customs Administrations have made significant progress in the exchange of information on prevention, investigation and repression of customs offences and procedures involving imports, exports, drawback and warehousing. He also followed with keen interest the achievement in the field of the simplification and harmonization of customs procedure, the Controller said.

During the previous deliberations in Bangkok, the establishment of two expert groups were endorsed. One of them deals with procedures, computerisation and valuation while the other is on nomenclature.

These matters are important for their immediate relevance and anticipated contributions towards the efforts and realisation of AFTA as well as the inter-relation to Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation's work on facilitation of trade through improved customs procedures, the Controller added.

"Mindful of the more sophisticated 'Modus operandi' and techniques adopted in smuggling and trafficking activities, the ASEAN Customs Administrations (could) no

longer afford to rely on the conventional approaches to combat and repress such crimes. We must keep ourselves steps ahead."

One way, he said, is to take every possible efforts and means to upgrade job knowledge and professionalism of personnel. This is where training is vital. The meeting should look into and study areas and needs of more advanced and specialised trainings for their personnel.



The Controller of Customs and Excise, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Cheteria Sahibon Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz spoke of significant progress in information exchange amongst ASEAN Customs Administrations.

Eleventh ASEAN US dialogue discussed trade and political matters

The two-day 11th ASEAN-US Dialogue meeting ended in Bandar Seri Begawan on May 16. The meeting included the presence of the ASEAN-US Senior Officials and for the first time political matters were included in the agenda.

The meeting was attended by delegations from the government and private sectors of the ASEAN mem-

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Thailand's PM visits Brunei



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, representing His Majesty, headed the welcoming party at the Brunei International Airport for His Excellency Mr. Chuan Leekpai, who shortly after arrival, took the salute and inspected a guard of honour.



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emerge as our future partner in the development of this region", he concluded.

In his own speech at the function, the Thai Prime Minister, too, spoke of the benefits gained from the numerous exchanges of visits, especially of the Brunei monarch's state visit to Thailand in 1988, and the ensuing visits to Brunei Darussalam by Thailand's Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, which "have indeed brought our two kingdoms closer together".

He also spoke on the importance of close cooperation within ASEAN, saying member states must take up, at bilateral or multilateral level, the present and future challenges together, in community spirit.

This is especially so in the present world of increasing economic competition and interdependence.

The Thai leader said the Cambodia problem remains ASEAN's immediate concern and stressed it is important that the grouping continues to play an active role in keeping world attention on post-election Cambodia.



At the same time, he added, ASEAN needs to look more in the longterm perspective as well-beyond Cambodia. The unfolding of new challenges and opportunities which according to him are likely to be economic rather than ideological conflicts, demand concerted actions and leaves no room for complacency.

He referred to the setting up of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) at last year's Fourth ASEAN Summit, saying that in taking up this major challenge, ASEAN has demonstrated to the world that it remains a dynamic grouping fully intent upon a united economic force at the global level.

AFTA, he said, represents only one aspect of ASEAN's vitality and dynamism. Cooperation continues to expand in many other fields, from cultural exchanges and tourism to investment and enlargement of air transportation and telecommunication

networks.

The Thai Prime Minister further said that the concept of special areas of economic cooperation is fast gaining ground, and the interlocking networks of cooperation are emerging. He cited that in addition to the existing Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia growth area, the growth triangle consisting of Northern Malaysia, Southern Thailand and Northern Sumatra has been agreed in principle by all the countries concerned.

"With investment capability and resources, Brunei Darussalam could play a meaningful role in binding all the countries in our region together with mutual economic interests", said the Thai leader.

His excellency Mr. Chuan Leekpai was in Brunei Darussalam at the head of a high-level delegation that included his deputy.

Accorded a red carpet welcome at the Brunei International airport where



The Thai Prime Minister, centre above, introduces members of his delegation to His Majesty on their arrival at Istana Nurul Iman for an audience with the Brunei monarch. At the audience, right, the two leaders discussed bilateral and regional issues.



he and his delegation were greeted by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah as a personal representative of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Thai Prime Minister took the salute and inspected a guard of honour mounted by men of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Shortly after his arrival, and again before departing for home, His Excellency Mr. Chuan Leekpai had audi-

ences with His Majesty, during which they exchanged views on bilateral matters in the field of economic cooperation especially in trade and investment. Regional issues particularly the latest development in Cambodia were also discussed.

Also in the Thai leader's itinerary were visits to the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad at Seria which included a helicopter flight to the Champion Seven Offshore Complex - one of the country's largest oil finds in the 1970s. He also toured

the Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas Plant at Lumut. His Excellency also went on a boat tour of the capital's famous Kampong Ayer or Water Village settlement.

Brunei Darussalam and Thailand established formal diplomatic relations in 1983 and this was followed by various cooperation such as air services. Brunei Darussalam buys most of its rice requirement from Thailand, while ASEAN, including Thailand is the largest buyer of Brunei Darussalam's oil.

HM goes on the Haj

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam left for the holy land of Mecca on May 24, to perform the Haj - the fifth pillar of Islam.

His fourth pilgrimage, the Brunei monarch is being accompanied by one of his brothers, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah and a son, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji 'Abdul Azim.

Two other brothers of His Majesty, Their Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah and Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah were at the Brunei International airport to see off His Majesty.

Also at the airport were Pengirans cheteria and cabinet ministers.

The Brunei monarch first went on the pilgrimage in 1987, followed by the second in 1991. Last year, the ruler performed his third Haj, together with his family.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, 5th from right and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji 'Abdul Azim, 4th from right, stand in homage of the do'a selamat shortly before their departure for the holy land. Seeing them off were His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah, 2nd and 3rd from right respectively.

ber countries and the United States. It was chaired jointly by the two Permanent Secretaries of the Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dato Paduka Lim Jock Seng and Pengiran Anak Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Puteh, and the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the US Department of State, Ambassador Winston Lord.

The private sectors of ASEAN and the US were represented by Awang Razali Johari of Brunei Darussalam, Chairman of ASEAN-US Business Council (ASEAN Section) and Mr. E Driscoll, President of the US-ASEAN Council for Business and Technology, Inc.

ASEAN-US private sectors

In a joint statement issued at the end of the meeting, ASEAN-US noted that a session was held especially for the representatives of the ASEAN and US private sectors to exchange views on a number of trade and economic issues. The ASEAN and the US private sectors believed that the Dialogue meeting was a key forum to ensure continuity and good relationships. The ASEAN private sector expressed a number of concerns over policies affecting ASEAN trade with the US. The US private sector presented its vision of future US-ASEAN trade and investment relations emphasizing the enormous potential for mutually beneficial growth.

The statement said: "The ASEAN and US private sectors emphasized growing investment opportunities which would flow from the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area and the liberalisation measures taken by ASEAN."

Trade and economic issues

It added, ASEAN explained that with AFTA, there is a greater move to liberalize and expand intra-ASEAN trade and investment. The US indicated its support for ASEAN efforts

towards economic cooperation and reiterated that it welcomes the decision to create AFTA.

The meeting, said the statement, exchanged views on international economic issues. In this regard, both sides emphasized the importance of a successful and early conclusion of the Uruguay Round. ASEAN and the US also stressed the importance of APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation), in further enhancing economic cooperation in the Asia Pacific region.

The five-page statement further noted that the US apprised ASEAN on the latest developments of NAFTA (North America Free Trade Agreement). The US assured ASEAN that NAFTA raise no barriers to trade from outside North America and is intended to complement and extend trade liberalisation in the Uruguay Round. ASEAN hoped that NAFTA would remain outward looking so that AFTA and NAFTA could complement each other.

During the meeting, bilateral economic issues such as trade, commodities and investment were also discussed, said the statement.

It said, the meeting noted a remarkable growth of ASEAN-US trade which had more than doubled over the last decade. The US has indicated its willingness to cooperate with ASEAN on forestry. It would continue to consult ASEAN on tin disposals by the Defence Logistics Agency. ASEAN expressed a number of concern over US policies affecting ASEAN trade with the US. The US responded to the concerns and emphasized the importance of open markets, the statement pointed out.

The meeting also reviewed the US development cooperation programme with ASEAN. The meeting noted the progress made on the ongoing development projects especially on the Private Investment Trade Opportunities (PITO). The meeting also noted that the Environmental Improvement Project (EIP) would be implemented soon. Both ASEAN and US agreed to forge closer coordina-

tion in the overall management of the ASEAN-US development cooperation programme.

International and regional issues

The meeting also exchanged views on current international and regional issues of mutual concern namely Cambodia, the Middle East, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the South China Sea and Indo-Chinese Refugees.

Cambodia

On Cambodia, the meeting expressed its concern over the deteriorating situation. Both ASEAN and the US reaffirmed their commitment to the Paris Agreements, in particular, the holding of general elections. They emphasized the need for all Cambodian factions to comply fully with the obligations under these agreements and condemned the acts of violence against UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) and emphasized the need to strengthen measures for the security of all UNTAC personnel. They called on all personnel contributing countries to maintain their troops and personnel in Cambodia in line with the mandate of UNTAC, said the joint statement.

South China Sea

On South China Sea, The United States reaffirmed its support to the ASEAN Declaration on South China Sea, particularly for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Indochinese asylum seekers

ASEAN also briefed the United States on the latest developments on the issues of Indochinese asylum seekers and the progress made thus far on the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA). ASEAN emphasized the need for collective implementation of CPA

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted an audience to Britain's Secretary of State for Defence, The Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind.

Audience for British minister

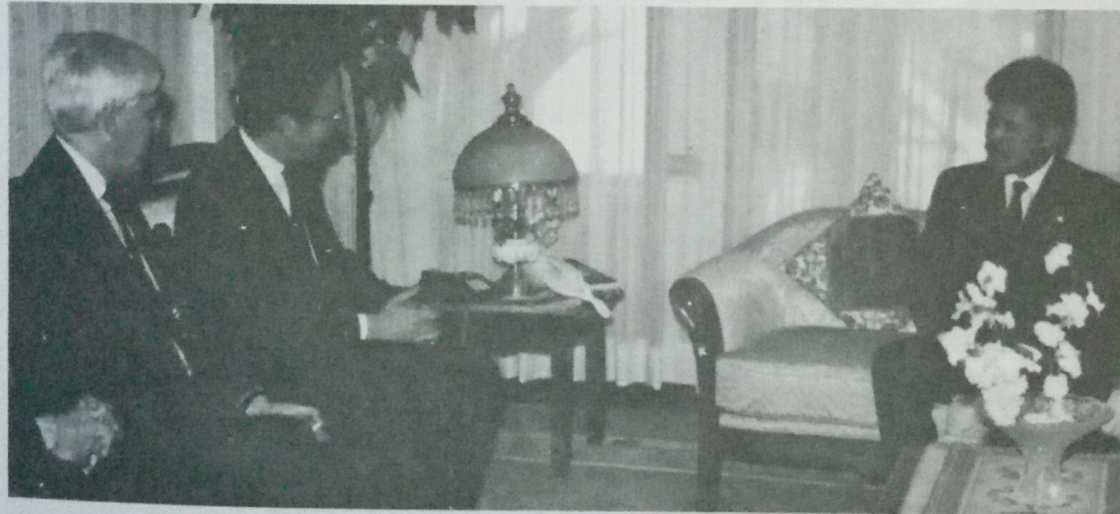
The Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom, The Right Honourable Malcolm Rifkind has had an audience with His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei

Darussalam.

The British minister was on a two-day visit to Brunei Darussalam beginning May 19, and was granted audience by the Brunei monarch at Istana Nurul Iman the following day.

The Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind also paid a courtesy call on the Sultanate's

Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah on 20 May, at the at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan. The two ministers discussed bilateral issues.



The British Secretary of State for Defence, The Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind in conversation with His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, while the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dato Seri Paduka Adrian John Sindall looks on.

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and in this regard urged the US to speed up its intake of those who have been screened in as refugees.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

On the current situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the meeting condemned the continuing atrocities and the policy of ethnic cleansing committed by the Bosnian Serbs. The meeting

agreed decisive international actions within the UN framework were needed to stop the continuing slaughter of civilians and the destruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Middle East Peace Talks

The statement further noted that the United States briefed the meeting on the outcome of the latest round of the Middle East Peace Talks. ASEAN commended the US Administration's

efforts in reviving the peace talks. ASEAN emphasized the need for a comprehensive and balanced approach in the settlement of the Middle East problem.

The 12th ASEAN-US Dialogue meeting will be held in the United States next year. Brunei Darussalam has been a three-year country coordinator for the ASEAN-US dialogue since 1991. The dialogue is held every eighteen months.

in a manner unthinkable during the four decades of superpower rivalry."

Democracy and human rights

"We also believe security involves more than just arms and alliances. Democracy and human rights are components of a broader definition of security. We must also confront global problems that have largely lain dormant for the past 45 years - from protection of the environment, to sustainable levels of population growth, to the proliferation of weapons, drugs and AIDS. And underlying these problems is our need to harness a way that supports world economic growth, the global revolutions in technology, communications and transportation, and our growing economic interdependence."

US Security goals in Asia

ASEAN too, has always defined security in a broad sense and has been committed to the proposition that neighbours can build peaceful relations by creating patterns of co-operation and by fostering prosperous societies.

H.E. Mr Lord added: "in achieving our broad security goals in Asia and across the globe, ASEAN is a key partner for the United States. The track record of cooperation among ASEAN countries and between ASEAN and the US makes us hopeful that both individually and jointly we can work to find solutions to the international challenges I have outlined."

Acting in concert, ASEAN has since its founding in 1967, consistently contributed more toward global and regional stability than could have any individual ASEAN state. ASEAN's united efforts to reach a peaceful

settlement in Cambodia, the grouping's denunciation of North Korea's withdrawal from IAEA, its support for sanctions against the former Yugoslavia, have been critical elements in the mutual quest in Asia and worldwide, he stated.

"As we approach the 21st century, ASEAN political cooperation is more critical than ever - to the US and the world. With your past successes in using your united voice to foster international change, and with ASEAN's growing role in the world economy, ASEAN is poised as never before to use its prestige and influence to engage in finding solutions to political and economic problems in Asia and elsewhere."

The US government attaches great importance to consultations at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference

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Dato Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, centre, opened the 11th ASEAN-US Dialogue in Bandar Seri Begawan on 15 May. Seen with him are some of the other members of the Brunei delegation, including the ministry's other Permanent Secretary, Pengiran Anak Dato Seri Lalla Jasa Haji Puteh, right, who was co-chairman of the meeting. Below: A dialogue session in progress.



(PMC) and that is why they support the proposal to add regional security issues to the agendas of the Dialogue and the PMC.

The consultations in the PMC, he added, serve as a useful complement to "our bilateral defence ties and to our work on specific issues such as efforts to halt nuclear proliferation in North Korea." He said he looked forward to hearing ASEAN's views on how the PMC process should be further developed.

Trade and economic issues

On trade and economic issues, which dominated the early part of the speech, HE Mr Lord said that since 1988, US exports to ASEAN have grown by an outstanding 85 percent, making ASEAN one of the fastest growing major US export markets. Just from 1991 to 1992 US exports to ASEAN increased by more than 15 percent reaching an all time high of US\$24 billion. During the same period, ASEAN exports to the US have grown by 24 percent to over US\$36 billion. Two way trade now exceeds US\$60 billion and is forecast to expand further, providing new jobs and economic growth in ASEAN and the US.

Demonstrable benefits such as trade and related job growth that stem from closer economic ties and economic liberalization can and will solidify US public support for US continued engagement in international political and security issues. This is true, he said, on a bilateral, regional and multilateral



His Excellency Mr. Winston Lord paid a courtesy call on His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Foreign Affairs Minister.

level.

That is why the US has supported trends toward economic liberalization in ASEAN over the past few years, and why they have pressed, for example, for expanded protection of intellectual property rights for US industries, Mr Lord said.

That is also why the US supports the enhanced competitiveness that AFTA will bring to ASEAN economies. "Like the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) we have negotiated with Canada and Mexico, a GATT-consistent AFTA that sheds barriers to trade and investment within the region, while not erecting new obstacles to trade with other nations, will benefit countries not party to the agreement." Just as ASEAN economic stand to gain from the wealth-generating

effects of NAFTA, he said, we believe that US economy will gain by higher growth rates in Southeast Asia resulting from AFTA. "We also hope that trade liberalization within ASEAN will stimulate efforts to expand liberalization elsewhere", he added.

US belief in the benefits of expanding regional economic ties and trade liberalization underlies its commitments to APEC as the cornerstone of Asia Pacific economic cooperation. APEC, he also stressed, will build upon, not replace, US-ASEAN economic ties.

As host to this year's Ministerial, the US seeks ASEAN's help and cooperation to establish a foundation for an active dialogue on trade issues throughout the region. That is why they put forward informally a proposal to establish a trade and investment framework.

Regional trade liberalizing arrangements through NAFTA, AFTA or APEC, are not substitutes for global trade liberalization, Mr Lord also said. Estimates suggest that by tearing down barriers to trade and investment in goods and services, a successful Uruguay Round could boost world economic output by more than US \$5 trillion over the next decade. Such benefits would be spread across the developed and developing world alike. No regional trading arrangement could generate such wealth. That is why a conclusion of a successful Uruguay Round remains the US number one priority, a goal for which ASEAN's help and leadership will be needed. But regional arrangements can, as in the case of AFTA or APEC, set a new, higher benchmark for liberalization on a global scale, he added.



ASEAN's Secretary General, His Excellency Dato Ajit Singh, who was in Bandar Seri Begawan for the 11th ASEAN-US Dialogue, also paid a courtesy on the Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Minister.

The king-crab, as its name suggests, is a type of large crab which is commonly found along Brunei coasts and on salt-water river beaches. Belonging to the Crustacea family, the king-crab is usually found in pairs with the male riding on the back of the female, which is usually

King-crab

much larger, and with a much more pointed tail. Known by its scientific name of *Limulus moluccanus*, the king-crab is not easy to find as the pair would normally burrow into the sandy

sea or river bed and only the air bubbles that it omits would indicate its presence. Like other animals that live in water, the crustaceans play an important role in aquatic ecology. The larger female measures about ten inches across, excluding tail, while the smaller male measures about two inches less. Some people do eat the king-crab, and its eggs especially, are said to be very tasty! The king-crab is also commonly known as horseshoe crab, obviously because of its shape! In Brunei Darussalam, people use the hard, shell-exoskeleton of the king-crab as decorations, especially in the olden days, when they adorned walls and other parts of the home.



Brunei in Brief

Capital:

Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size:

5765 sq. km

Population:

260,000 (1991)

Official Language:

Malay

Official Religion:

Islam

March rainfall (annual 2,818mm):

20.3mm

PRIME LENDING RATE

March 6%

(quoted by Bankers' Association)

Brunei Malay in a minute

We introduce our readers to a new Brunei Malay word through the fortnightly issue of the Brunei Darussalam Newsletter.

For this issue, we have chosen the word *acang*.

Acang is pigeon, and *merpati* in

standard Malay.

Let's use the word in a sentence
Orang tua itu memelihara banyak
burung *acang*.

The old man rears large number
of pigeons.

THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF
CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY
FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.