

UNST
PSCA
(05)
D3
No. 20
ENG
COP. 1

DECOLONIZATION



United Nations Department of Political Affairs,
Trusteeship and Decolonization

No. 20
December 1983

JUN 27 1984
ISSUE ON BRUNEI

UN/ISA COLLECTION CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. BRUNEI ACCEDES TO INDEPENDENCE ON 31 DECEMBER 1983	3
II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY.....	3 - 6
A. General.....	3 - 4
B. Constitutional and political development.....	4 - 5
C. International co-operation.....	5 - 6
III. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.....	6 - 12
A. General.....	6
B. Oil production.....	6 - 7
C. Liquefied natural gas.....	7
D. Diversification of the economy.....	7 - 8
E. Land.....	8
F. Agriculture.....	8 - 9
G. Livestock.....	9
H. Fisheries.....	9 - 10
I. Forestry.....	10
J. Industry.....	10
K. Transport and communications.....	11
L. Taxation and public finance.....	11
M. Foreign trade.....	12

	<u>Page</u>
IV. SOCIAL CONDITIONS.....	12 - 13
A. General.....	12
B. Labour and employment.....	12 - 13
C. Public health.....	13
D. Religion.....	13
V. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS.....	14
VI. ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS.....	14 - 15
Annex. MAP OF BRUNEI.....	16

BRUNEI

I. BRUNEI ACCEDES TO INDEPENDENCE ON 31 DECEMBER 1983

Brunei acceded to independence on 31 December 1983 as provided for under a Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation of 7 January 1979 between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Sultanate of Brunei.

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY

A. General

Brunei is an oil and gas producing State which occupies some 5,765 square kilometres on the northern coast on the island of Borneo. It is comprised of two areas which are separated by the Malaysian state of Sarawak. The capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, is located in the main enclave, together with the Brunei International Airport and the Territory's oil fields, which centre on the towns of Seria and Kuala Belait some 112 kilometres south-west of the capital. The second enclave, Temburong District, with Bangar as its capital, consists mostly of jungle and is sparsely populated. The South China Sea borders Brunei to the north. Along that border, from Kuala Belait to Bandar Seri Begawan, there is a narrow cultivated coastal strip. The rest of the country is mainly tropical rain forest with an annual rainfall of as much as 7.2 metres in the interior and about 2.4 metres along the coast. The climate throughout the year is tropical.

At the last census, taken in 1981, the population was estimated at 192,832, 37 per cent of whom were under 15 years of age. Malays accounted for 65.2 per cent of the population; Chinese, 20.4 per cent; other indigenous groups, 7.9 per cent; Indians, 3.1 per cent; and expatriates, 3.4 per cent.

From the fourteenth to the sixteenth centuries, Brunei was the centre of a powerful empire which covered most of the northern part of the island of Borneo, taking in what are today known as Sarawak and Sabah, and reaching northwards through the Philippines almost to Manila. By the nineteenth century, much of Brunei's empire had been whittled away by piracy, wars and the spread of European nations into the Far East.

Brunei became a British Protected State following the signing of the Treaty of Friendship with Great Britain in 1888, supplemented by the Treaty of 1906 under which Brunei accepted the presence of a British Resident to advise on all matters except those concerning Malay customs and the Moslem religion.

Between 1906 and 1941 a new form of Government emerged to include a State Council. Oil was discovered in Seria and went into commercial production in 1929, but it was not actively developed because of economic recession in England and many parts of the world. Production was further interrupted by the First World War and did not fully resume until after the war.

During the Second World War, the Japanese occupied Brunei three and a half years. After the war, the social and economic development of Brunei slowly returned to normal. Under the leadership for seventeen years of Sultan Sir Omar Ali Saifuddin, the twenty-eighth Sultan of Brunei, the country progressed into the modern world in the economic, social and political fields. The Sultan abdicated the throne in October 1967 in favour of his son, the then Crown Prince. The new Sultan became known as Sultan Sir Mudah Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadden Waddaulah, the twenty-ninth Sultan of Brunei.

When the Federation of Malaysia was being formed in 1963, talks were held between the Sultan and the Government of Malaya concerning the possible entry of Brunei into the Federation. Negotiations were eventually discontinued as a result of failure to agree on the terms for Brunei's entry.

B. Constitutional and political development

Until its independence, Brunei was regulated by an agreement with the United Kingdom concluded in 1959 and amended in 1971. By this agreement, the State was internally self-governing, with the United Kingdom having responsibility only for foreign affairs and having a consultative role in external defence. The United Kingdom was represented by a High Commissioner, whose appointment was subject to the agreement of the Sultan.

According to the Constitution promulgated in 1959 and amended in 1964 by the Sultan, supreme executive authority was vested in the Sultan, whose assent was required for all bills passed by the Legislative Council. In the exercise of his authority, the Sultan was assisted by the Mentri Besar (Chief Minister), the Privy Council and the Council of Ministers. The Legislative Council, which consisted of 20 members, 10 ex officio and 10 nominated, might make laws for the peace, order and good government of the State, subject to the assent of the Sultan. The Territory's judicial system consisted of a High Court, a Court of Appeal and Islamic courts.

Brunei is divided into four districts, each of which is administered by a district officer advised by a district council, most of whose members are elected. There are district authorities in Bandar Seri Begawan, Kuala Belait, Tutong and Bangar.

There are two recognized political parties in Brunei: the People's Independent Front of Brunei (BAKER, from its Malay initials), formed in 1966 with the stated objectives of constitutional advance and independence, and the People's National United Front (PERKARA), established in 1967 with the aim of strengthening the position of Brunei as a sultanate. A third party, the People's Party of Brunei (PRB), formed in 1959, was banned in December 1962 following a revolt reportedly led by PRB. The State of Emergency imposed at that time has remained in force to date. In addition to 8 remaining members of PRB reportedly still being detained in connection with the rebellion, 20 others are reported to have been arrested between 1975 and 1978 and detained under the Emergency Order.

Since 1962, a Gurkha Battalion has been stationed in Brunei. It consists of Brunei Malay soldiers and strengthened by British officers under contract to the Brunei Government. On 22 September 1983, it was reported that the United Kingdom and Brunei had reached an agreement on the stationing of the Gurkha troops in Brunei after independence, whereby the Battalion would remain under the command of the United Kingdom, would be on call for emergency duties in places such as Hong Kong and would be paid for by the Sultan. The agreement also provides for Britain's continued use of the jungle-training facilities at Tutong and for the training of local forces. For that purpose, the United Kingdom would continue to make available to the Brunei Government British Service personnel to train and advise Brunei's armed forces.

C. International co-operation

The Sultan has reportedly indicated that Brunei plans to join the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) after independence but that the timing for joining those organizations would depend on the availability of qualified personnel. To that end, an embryonic foreign affairs department has been formed and a cadre of officials is undergoing a series of training programmes with the assistance of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and other Commonwealth and ASEAN nations. Since 1981, senior government officials have attended sessions of the General Assembly and the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea as guests of the Singapore delegation; and in 1982 and 1983 another group of senior government officials attended the General Assembly sessions as guests of the Malaysian delegation.

At a meeting of ASEAN in June 1983, the member countries welcomed the prospect of Brunei's becoming the sixth member of that organization.

Brunei participates in regional training programmes in civil aviation and customs administration, as well as in South China Sea fisheries programmes. It also maintains contact with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Two bills passed by the Legislative Council in January 1982 provided the framework necessary for the establishment of foreign consulates in Brunei. The Diplomatic Privileges Bill and the Diplomatic and Consular Relations Bills put into effect international agreements governing diplomatic affairs. The Legislative Council has also implemented the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, adopted by the General Assembly in 1973 (resolution 3166 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973).

III. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

Brunei's economy depends almost entirely on its rich petroleum resources and on liquefied natural gas, which account for over 80 per cent of the gross domestic product and 98 per cent by value of all exports. Falling oil prices caused the country's gross domestic product per capita to decline 20 per cent in 1982 to \$BR 17,600,¹ but it remains one of the highest in South East Asia. The gross national product in constant 1974 prices was estimated to be \$BR 4 billion in 1979 and is projected to rise to \$BR 5.3 billion by 1984. The economy grew at an average annual rate of 9 per cent in the 1970s and 6 per cent in the 1980s. In April 1982, the annual rate of inflation was estimated at 7.2 per cent.

B. Oil production

Although the first oil fields in Brunei were found in the early 1900s, it was not until 1929 that the rich onshore Seria field was discovered by the British-Malayan Petroleum Company, Ltd. (BMPC). By 1940, the field was producing 17,000 barrels a day and by 1956 production had reached a peak of 114,700 barrels a day. It is estimated that the reserves are such that the oil fields will be in production well into the next century.

Offshore production started in October 1964 and now forms a major part of the operations of Brunei Shell Petroleum, formerly BMPC, owned jointly in equal share by the Royal Dutch-Shell group and the Brunei Government. In 1981, oil production averaged 176,000 barrels a day, down

from 250,000 barrels a day in 1980. In accordance with a depletion policy adopted to ensure that the ultimate recovery rate would be more suited to the economic needs of the State, the output for 1982 was scheduled to remain at the level of 175,000 barrels per day. Capital expenditure for oil and gas production amounted to \$BR 1.1 billion in 1981. During 1982-1983, a number of exploratory drilling programmes were undertaken and over 40 million barrels were added to the country's reserves.

New legislation was introduced in 1982 stipulating that the Brunei Government would be an equal partner in all petroleum ventures with foreign companies. Companies wishing to apply for concessions would be required to offer the Government a percentage of their annual net profit from petroleum or gas production, in addition to the existing royalties and taxes. These measures were aimed at stimulating competition between prospective concession holders.

C. Liquefied natural gas

Brunei LNG, Ltd., a joint venture of the Brunei Government, the Royal Dutch-Shell group and the Mitsubishi Corporation, has one of the world's largest natural gas liquefaction plants. In 1979, Brunei exported 12.6 million cubic metres of liquefied natural gas, all to Japan. Exports of liquefied natural gas in 1982 amounted to \$BR 3 billion, or one third of the total export earnings, making Brunei one of the world's largest exporters of this product.

D. Diversification of the economy

Since the early 1960s, the Brunei Government has taken a number of steps, including the establishment between 1965 and 1980, of three succeeding five-year development plans, aimed at improving and diversifying the country's economy through the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. A major obstacle to that effort has been an acute shortage of manpower, necessitating extensive recruiting from abroad. In 1982, temporary resident migrant workers, mainly Ibans from the neighbouring Malaysian state of Sarawak who work in sawmills and on construction sites, numbered some 24,000, constituting approximately 21 per cent of the population and one third of the labour force.

In 1980, the fourth five-year development plan began, with a projected capital investment of \$BR 2.2 billion during the period 1980-1984, 60 per cent of which is to be provided by the Government and the remainder by the private sector. In addition to the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, the plan will provide for the improvement of road, sea and air communications and housing facilities. Education will also benefit from the building of new schools, while the completion of a new hospital in Bandar Seri Begawan will improve health services. To meet the growing demands for electricity and water, the related services will be extended.

In April 1983, the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) dispatched to Brunei a development assistance programming and project identification mission to assist the Government in assessing the country's needs for development assistance. The mission proposed an initial set of technical co-operation activities in selected high-priority areas, with an estimated cost of \$US 3.7 million.

E. Land

All land in Brunei belongs to the Government, but parcels may be allotted to individuals on a temporary or permanent basis. For any private investment involving land development, rights of tenure must be secured from the Government. Transfer of title or long-term lease to non-citizens requires the approval of the Government.

Of the total land area of 520,000 hectares, about 130,000 hectares are considered arable, but only a third of the arable area is accessible with the existing roads and highways. Of the land in accessible areas, about 18,000 hectares are potentially available for agricultural use but only 6,000 hectares are currently under cultivation.

F. Agriculture

Agriculture in Brunei consists of small subsistence farms built around rice and vegetables as staples, with poultry and fish as sources of animal protein. Other crops include limited quantities of sago, tapioca, coconuts, pineapples, peppers and some spices. Brunei thus imports over 80 per cent of its foodstuff requirements. Pepper became an important export crop during the 1960s and the country now produces approximately 200 metric tons annually. The area planted in rice decreased from 3,600 hectares in the early 1970s to 1,620 hectares in 1980, while rice imports during the period nearly tripled.

The primary cause of the generally decreasing agricultural production is the small farm size and labour-intensive nature of production methods. Since the 1970s, there has been increasing mechanization of agriculture and, as a result, most farms have become only part-time operations. The availability of other and more attractive employment opportunities off the farm, particularly within the rapidly growing government sector, has diminished the appeal of full-time farming and attracted school-leavers to urban centres. The share of the population engaged in agriculture declined from 14.7 per cent in 1971 to 11.5 per cent in 1981.

During the past 10 years, the Government has made considerable investments to stimulate the agricultural sector. The Kilanas Research Centre, started in 1932 as an information, materials and livestock centre for farmers, was converted into a modern research facility in 1978 and 1979. With 15 field stations operated by well-trained staff, including a number

of graduate agronomists, the Centre conducts both basic and applied research on rice, root and tuber crops, vegetables and forage crops, as well as various training and advisory activities. Each of Brunei's four main districts has an agricultural extension office under the supervision of a district officer. The extension staff advise farmers and provide them with a wide range of services, including help with fencing materials and chemicals; drainage and irrigation subsidies; land clearing; and free seeds. The extension offices also make available power tillers, tractors and other implements at subsidized rates.

The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Public Works were established in 1975 and jointly operate a 365-hectare large-scale mechanized rice farm on a commercial basis. The Department of Agriculture has established a large new tree crop station in Birau with successful and substantial production of coffee, pepper and rambutan. The Birau station serves as a testing ground for new introductions of fruit, vegetables and rice, as well as a nursery for improved fruit trees to be distributed among farmers.

G. Livestock

In an attempt to attain self-sufficiency in beef production and dairy products, the Government purchased in 1982 a 590,000-hectare cattle ranch in the Northern Territory of Australia at a reported cost of \$US 5 million. The ranch, which is larger in area than Brunei itself, is located some 400 kilometres south of Darwin and maintains a stock of 30,000 to 40,000 head of cattle, of which 4,500 steers are expected to be shipped to Brunei annually.

The Government also operates a cattle breeding station in Jerudong in a joint venture with the Mitsubishi Corporation. The station's herd of 350 bulls and breeding heifers provides improved animals for the growing private-sector livestock development activities. Mitsubishi has reportedly invested \$BR 4 million in the project.

H. Fisheries

Once a mainstay of the economy, fishing has declined; the local catch, estimated at several thousand metric tons per year, satisfies only 70 per cent of domestic consumption needs.

The Fisheries Department operates a research trawler to survey the offshore fishing potential, conservatively estimated at 10,000 metric tons per annum. Pending the completion of its survey and establishment of applicable ordinances, the Department has banned offshore fishing with trawlers in order to protect the resource and to prevent damage to offshore oil pipelines and other petroleum industry facilities. The Department is considering the introduction of a small trawling industry, with the assistance of the South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre. The plan

envisages deployment of 10 trawlers to be operated by both co-operatives and private enterprise, as well as a fleet of refrigerated lorries for shipment of the fish to local markets. A new fish-landing complex with ice-making capacity is being built at Muara to accommodate the trawlers and lorries and, together with another landing facility currently in the planning stage, is expected to support further development in fisheries.

I. Forestry

About 70 per cent of Brunei is forest land, of which over 80 per cent is designated a state forest reserve. Since the early 1960s, the Government has placed restrictions on the export of logs and sawn timber. An inventory of forestry resources was being completed in early 1983 by an international consulting firm under contract to the Government. There are a few small sawmills; most of the timber, finished lumber and plywood used in the Territory is imported. A study on the feasibility of establishing a paper mill has been conducted by a consulting firm also under contract to the Government.

J. Industry

The production of oil and gas, dominated by large foreign firms engaged in processing, drilling and related high-technology activities, is the principal industrial activity in the Territory.

In order to promote industrial development, the Government has established two industrial estates: a 24-hectare site at Muara, developed in 1977 at an estimated cost of \$BR 4 million; and a 6-hectare site at Gadong. A bottling plant is in operation at the Muara estate. A third estate is planned in the Kuala Belait area.

At present, Brunei imports about 115,000 metric tons of cement annually at a cost of \$BR 26 million from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. In early 1983, the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) concluded a feasibility study for a cement factory. Local manufacture is expected to reduce cement prices through considerable savings in shipping and local transportation costs. The Mitsubishi Corporation is undertaking a feasibility study for a ceramic tile factory to meet a rapidly increasing demand for tiles resulting from the construction boom.

K. Transport and communications

Brunei has about 1,300 kilometres of roads. Main roads link the capital with other major towns such as Kuala Belait and Seria, but not with Bangar, the capital of Temburong District. A major road development project is scheduled for completion by 1985, including the construction of a road linking Miri in Sarawak (Malaysia) with Brunei. A multi-million dollar road is also being completed from the port of Muara to the centre of the Territory. New ferry terminals on both sides of the Baram River are also scheduled for completion before 1984. The Brunei, Belait and Tutong rivers are navigable and represent an important means of transportation.

Brunei has two seaports, at Muara and Kuala Belait, which offer direct shipping to Hong Kong, Singapore and several other ports in the region. For the increasingly large volume of cargo being shipped into Brunei, wharf facilities at both ports are becoming inadequate and extensive dredging and development work, as well as extension of wharf facilities, is being undertaken.

The State-owned Royal Brunei Airlines operates regular flights to Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. Cathay Pacific Airways, Singapore Airlines, Malaysian Airline System and Philippine Air Lines also serve Bandar Seri Begawan from Hong Kong, Singapore, Sabah, Sarawak and Manila. In addition, British Airways calls at Bandar Seri Begawan en route between Australia and London. Royal Brunei Airlines is negotiating with Qantas to initiate flights between Darwin and Brunei to facilitate the growing tourist trade.

L. Taxation and public finance

No personal income tax is levied on nationals or residents. Partnership income is apportioned to the partners so that the individuals in the partnership are not subject to income tax. Company tax, which provides the Treasury with most of its income, is levied at a flat rate of 30 per cent.

The territorial Government reportedly has no foreign or domestic debts. Its monetary reserves are conservatively estimated at more than \$US 4 billion, to which about \$US 2 billion were reported to have been added under the 1981 budget.

In 1982, the total estimated revenue was \$BR 7.1 billion, compared with actual revenue of \$BR 7.6 billion in 1981 and total estimated expenditure was \$BR 1.9 billion, compared with actual expenditure of \$BR 1.3 billion in 1981.

M. Foreign trade

In 1981, total exports were estimated at \$BR 8.6 billion, compared with \$BR 9.8 billion in 1980 and total imports at \$BR 1.3 billion, compared with \$BR 1.2 billion in 1980. Brunei's foreign reserves stood at \$BR 19.9 billion at the end of 1981 and were estimated at \$BR 25.1 billion in 1982.

IV. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A. General

The population enjoys an extensive welfare system which provides free medical services and education through the secondary level and also subsidizes the cost of petrol, basic foods and principal social services.

The population growth rate has declined progressively over the past decade and is currently estimated at 2.2 per cent. Mortality rates are low and still declining, with the life expectancy at birth having reached 74 years.

A major public housing programme is in progress, under which 15,000 housing units will be constructed over the next 10 to 12 years - enough to re-house about one third of the total population. A comprehensive range of pensions and allowances is provided for the needy, such as disabled persons, the elderly, widows, orphans, hospitalized wage earners and victims of natural disasters. The Welfare, Youth and Sports Department is responsible for social welfare and community development services, youth and sports programmes and probation services.

The shortage of trained and experienced staff, especially at the middle-management and technical levels, is one of the major obstacles to the further development and improvement of social services. The problem is least serious in health services; greater difficulties have been experienced in other key areas, particularly in welfare and youth services and in labour administration. There is also a shortage of local expertise in dealing with social aspects of housing and resettlement.

B. Labour and employment

Brunei suffers from an acute shortage of labour, both skilled and unskilled. The Chinese population contributes much in the way of commercial skills and is responsible for most of the business activity outside the oil industry. Of an active labour force of over 70,000 in 1982, nearly 24,000 were temporary resident migrant workers.

As a result of the talks between the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and the Sultan's general advisers in March 1983, it is expected that a large number of labourers from Sabah and Sarawak will be made available for development projects. During recent years, workers have also been recruited from the Republic of Korea, Thailand, the Philippines and Bangladesh. Of the total work force, more than three quarters are employed in government jobs, which are stable and well paid. A young unskilled worker can earn up to \$US 500 per month and even at that rate there are not enough workers available for new ventures. Employment in the Government sector is expanding at an average rate of 10 per cent per annum.

The Government has approved in principle a "Brunei Manpower Plan" prepared in 1982 under the auspices of the British Council. Under the plan, a manpower planning section would be created within the Economic Planning Unit to keep under regular review such factors as student enrolment projections, labour demand forecasts, sectorial pay differences and allocation of scholarships for study abroad.

Many women are attaining senior positions in commercial enterprises. The first Brunei Malay woman was recently appointed manager of the National Bank's Jalan Tutong branch. Another woman, also a Brunei citizen, was appointed officer-in-charge of the bank's newest branch at Berakas. Royal Brunei Airlines has begun advertising for five trainee pilots, including women candidates, who will undergo overseas courses.

C. Public health

Free hospital and medical care are provided for all citizens. In addition to the facilities in the expanding hospital network, remote regions of the Territory are reached by mobile clinics and flying-doctor services. Virtually all children are immunized against diseases and the general standard of health facilities and services is high. Staffed by well-qualified doctors and technicians, the Medical and Health Department is responsible for a comprehensive health programme in all areas of health except environmental sanitation, which is under the jurisdiction of local authorities.

D. Religion

The Islamic religion dominates the everyday life of the population, while other religions are also allowed. The Religious Affairs Department leads the Government's efforts to maintain Islam as a way of life and oversees the curriculum of over 100 religious schools and four Arabic schools, as well as matters relating to the religious courts.

V. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

All Brunei citizens are entitled to receive free education in the Government school system, which is supplemented by a substantial number of private schools. The school system runs from kindergarten through the secondary level and offers vocational, technical and teacher training, as well as general education. As no university-level courses are offered in the Territory, some 1,800 Brunei students are undertaking advanced training or degree-level studies abroad, mainly in the United Kingdom.

The Government has actively pursued the promotion of Malay as the national language, along with its stress on the application of the Islamic principles. A national school system was introduced in January 1983, under which all schools are expected to use Malay as the language of instruction, with English being the second language.

VI. ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS

Brunei was included in the original list, enumerated in General Assembly resolution 66 (I) of 14 December 1946, of Non-Self-Governing Territories falling under the purview of Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations. As a consequence, the information transmitted by the United Kingdom on the Territory under Article 73 was the subject of annual review by the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was established in 1949 and dissolved in 1963.

On 3 April 1963, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples approved the preliminary list of Territories to which the Declaration applied,²⁷ including Brunei, and thereafter reviewed annually the situation obtaining in the Territory.

Following the conclusion of the 1971 Agreement, the United Kingdom Government informed the Secretary-General²⁷ that since it had surrendered all advisory functions in relation to the internal affairs of Brunei, the Territory had attained full internal self-government and, therefore, it would no longer be appropriate for the United Kingdom to transmit information on Brunei under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations. In 1973, the Special Committee recommended to the General Assembly that, inasmuch as Brunei had not yet attained independence, the provisions of Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 were fully applicable to the Territory, and that the United Kingdom should be required to furnish the required information on Brunei.²⁷

At its 1975 to 1977 sessions, the Assembly reaffirmed the right of the people of Brunei to self-determination and independence and called on the United Kingdom Government to take all steps within its competence to facilitate expeditiously the holding of free and democratic elections by the appropriate Government authorities of Brunei.²⁷ The United Kingdom Government reiterated that Brunei was a sovereign State which had freely

chosen to maintain a treaty relationship with the United Kingdom and that, since the conclusion of the 1971 Agreement, the United Kingdom had surrendered all advisory functions in relation to the internal affairs of Brunei.^{6/}

On 7 December 1983, the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the imminent accession of Brunei to independence and extended to the Government and people of Brunei its warm congratulations on their achievement and its best wishes for peace, happiness and prosperity in the years ahead. In welcoming the declared intention of the Government, upon attaining independence, to apply for membership at the United Nations, the Assembly appealed to the United Nations and its system of organizations to render all possible assistance to the emerging nation for the consolidation of its independence.

Notes

- 1/ In September 1982, \$BR 1.00 was reported to be worth \$US 0.46.
- 2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Addendum to agenda item 23, Annexes, document A/5446/Rev.1, annex I.
- 3/ Note verbale of 18 September 1972 (A/8827).
- 4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/9023/Rev.1), vol. XV, chap. XXI, para.11 (5) and (7).
- 5/ Resolutions 3424 (XXX) of 8 December 1975, 31/56 of 1 December 1976 and 32/27 of 28 November 1977.
- 6/ See exchange of letters in 1977 between the Chairman of the Special Committee and the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), Vol.III, chap. XV, annex II.

