

28 AUG 1997

Brunei-farewell

BRUNEI SULTAN SAYS FAREWELL TO KING

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei bade farewell to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar during an audience at Istana Negara here today at the end of his four-day state visit.

The Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah and the sultan's wives Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam were present.

Also present were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Agriculture Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud, who is minister-in-attendance.

Earlier, the sultan granted an audience to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail at his hotel suite here.

The sultan then departed for home from the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport in Subang.

Dr Mahathir, Dr Siti Hasmah and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi were at the airport to send him off.

During the visit Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, who is also Brunei's prime minister, held bilateral talks with Dr Mahathir.

The outcome was that Brunei and Malaysia agreed to hold annual meetings between their heads of government starting this year.

Both countries also agreed that Asean member countries take an integrated approach to face manipulation by currency speculators.

When addressing the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the sultan said Brunei would emulate Malaysia's determination to attain developed nation status by 2020.

In a public lecture at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, the sultan, among other things, spoke on the need for Asean to preserve the environment.

Brunei is among the older members of Asean, a regional grouping which now comprised nine South-East Asian nations.

The others are Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The sultan also proposed the creation of an Asean football league to forge greater understanding between people of the region.

He also suggested that tertiary institutions in the region enrol top students to groom future Asean leaders.-- BERNAMA

ARA AFY MHI rn