

\$14.469 million in annual Personal Income; \$12.370 million in annual Retail Sales; and 807 Permanent Jobs.

Assuming that a similar level of direct savings is available across the entire state, the aggregate incremental stimulus to business activity in New Mexico expands to: \$128.686 million in annual Total Expenditures; \$66.167 million in annual Gross State Product; \$38.048 million in annual Personal Income; \$32.529 million in annual Retail Sales; and 2,122 Permanent Jobs.

It is, thus, readily apparent that the consumers and producers of New Mexico have a substantial stake in the ongoing availability of gasoline at lower prices which is afforded by the new, competitive pipeline. Both sets of consumer benefits are illustrated in the graphs following this report.

SYNOPSIS

This testimony presents an evaluation of the contributions to consumers of a dynamic, new competitor in the Upper Rio Grande and New Mexico markets for gasoline and diesel sales. The results reveal impressive economic enhancements for the residents of the El Paso area, particularly among Hispanic residents. Substantial gains are also observed for retail customers in New Mexico. Conservative assumptions were used throughout the analysis; longterm effects, such as the greater competitiveness of a region for new industrial locations engendered by lower transportation costs, have not been factored into the analysis. Thus, this assessment should be viewed as a measure of the minimum benefits ensuing from the entrance of a new competitor. The findings clearly reveal that the pipeline is an imaginative endeavor which will be highly advantageous to the consumers it reaches.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this process and look forward to ongoing involvement. As additional issues surface concerning the impacts of gasoline prices, I will continue to update our analysis.

If any of you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to let me know. I appreciate the work that all of you do on behalf of the citizens of the United States, and I wish you all the best with the many challenges you face.

RELATIVE ECONOMIC STABILITY OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AMONG ASIAN ECONOMICS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention the attached article from Euronmoney October 1998, "Brunei Darussalam: The Abode of Peace."

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM: THE ABODE OF PEACE

Asia is caught in recession. No country in the region can expect to escape from at least part of the consequences of the turmoil that has swept Asian economies. That said, the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam is better placed than most regional states to weather the challenges ahead.

With the August 1998 inauguration of HRH Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah as Crown Prince and future 30th Sultan in a direct royal line that reaches back over 500 years, Negara Brunei Darussalam truly reaffirmed its position as "The Abode of Peace."

The spectacular and traditional ceremony held in the heart of the capital Bandar Seri

Begawan, a modern and forward-looking city, served to underline Brunei Darussalam's fortunate and enduring ability to combine the very best of the past with the very best of the new.

Brunei Darussalam has changed hugely with the flow of oil wealth, but His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, his government and his people have all striven to maintain the traditional standards of the country.

On the resumption of independence in 1984, His Majesty the Sultan proclaimed the country a sovereign, democratic Sunni Moslem monarchy. From the 14th to the 16th centuries Brunei Darussalam was the centre of a substantial empire with strong trading links, which covered much of Borneo and the neighbouring islands. However, by the end of the 19th century the Sultanate had lost much of its territory and influence as the result of European colonial expansion throughout south-east Asia.

In these difficult circumstances, Brunei Darussalam agreed to become a British protectorate and in 1888 accepted a British resident who advised the Sultan on all matters except the Islamic faith and Malay custom.

The discovery of oil in the western part of the country 20 years later initiated a long period of economic development, which was accelerated when the first offshore discoveries were made in the 1960s and given a further boost by the increase in oil prices in the 1970s.

The Brunei Darussalam constitution was drawn up in 1959, at the same time that the Sultanate became self-governing, although the British maintained responsibility for the country's foreign affairs, security and defence.

In 1967, Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khari Waddien, who had reigned for 17 years, voluntarily abdicated in favour of his eldest son, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, who ascended the throne in 1968, becoming the 29th Sultan.

Since then, His Majesty the Sultan has built upon the foundations laid by his late father, HM Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin, III, who is remembered as the architect of modern Brunei Darussalam. But the old Sultan never lost his links with his country's past. When he knew he was dying in 1986, he left his modern palace and returned to the old palace near the Kampong Ayer stilt village on the Brunei River, from which his family had first moved at the start of the century.

The 1979 Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation reinterpreted the long-standing relationship between Britain and Brunei Darussalam and paved the way for Brunei Darussalam to reassume full responsibility for its own destiny as an independent state in January 1, 1984.

Since that date, Brunei Darussalam has joined and supported the aims of all the principle international organizations. Upon independence, it joined the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean). Most of Brunei's trade is conducted with the other members of Asean, with Singapore being the leading trading partner within the grouping. Participation within Asean projects has also given Brunei an interest in the economic development of the region.

In October 1991, the member states of Asean formally announced the establishment of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta), which was to be implemented over a period of 15 years, later reduced to 10.

Brunei is also a member of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) whose heads of government will be the guests of Brunei Darussalam during the Apec 2000 meeting, to be held in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei Darussalam is also a member of the Islamic Development Bank, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

In October 1993, the idea of a "growth quadrangle", encompassing Mindanao and Palawan (the Philippines), Sarawak, Labuan and Sabah (Malaysia), East and West Kalimantan and Sulawesi (Indonesia) and Brunei, was mooted, aiming to emulate the Singapore-Johore-Riau "growth triangle". At a meeting in Mindanao in November 1994, it was agreed to establish the "growth triangle" as the Brunei - Indonesia - Malaysia - Philippines - East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA). The area has since been expanded with the announcement of the incorporation of additional provinces in Indonesia, including North and South Kalimantan, Maluku Islands and Irian Jaya, in July 1996. It was also decided to locate the secretariat of the East Asean Business Council (EABC) in Brunei. The provision of an office and the pledge to fund one half of the secretariat's operating expenses on a three-year renewable basis, are seen as part of Brunei Darussalam's commitment towards the development of BIMP-EAGA.

Brunei Darussalam is on the northern coast of the island of Borneo. It covers an area of 5,765 square kilometres. Malays form the majority of the population with a Chinese minority. There are also small expatriate communities, particularly from Britain, the Netherlands, the United States and Australia.

Brunei Darussalam is divided into two parts by Sarawak, a part of eastern Malaysia. The western side of the country is made up of two main districts, Brunei-Muara, Tutong and Belait while the eastern side contains the Temburong district. The climate is tropical and the average daytime temperatures range between 26 degrees centigrade (80 degrees Fahrenheit) and 35C (95F), with the evenings generally being a little cooler.

The annual rainfall varies from 200 inches a year in the interior to 100 inches annually on the coast. Brunei Darussalam has 130 kilometres of coastline and over 85% of the population lives in the coastal area.

CAUTIOUS ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

In 1997, GDP per head, in Brunei Darussalam measured at current prices was Br\$25,600 (\$14,712). After some years of gentle decline, between 1990 and 1997 GDP increased by an annual average of 2.2%. In 1997, Brunei's GDP, at current prices was estimated at Br\$8,051 million. The economy is based largely on wealth from natural gas and petroleum and from the Brunei Investment Agency managed funds of short and long-term assets.

The proportion of GDP contributed by the petroleum sector has however declined steadily from 83.7% in 1980 to 72.8% in 1985 to 62.9% in 1990 and 35.6% in 1997. Based on the current rate of production, Brunei Darussalam's petroleum and natural gas reserves are expected to last for another 20 and 30 years respectively.

The diversification of the economy into non-petroleum-related activities, which is expected to reduce income disparity (with wealth concentrated hitherto in the petroleum sector) remains a major challenge.

The proportion of GDP contributed by the non-oil sector has increased annually since 1986. Between 1990 and 1996, the GDP of the non-oil sector rose at an average of 5.7% per annum. In 1997 this relatively high growth continued, particularly in service-related areas.

The petroleum sector was adversely affected by depressed prices on the world oil market in the late 1980s. Export earnings from petroleum and natural gas declined by about Br\$9.7 billion in 1980 to Br\$3.6 billion in 1997, although the latter figure still represented 91.1% of the total export revenue.

The downward movement in oil prices has, however, been somewhat balanced by the appreciation of the US dollar as well as the improvement in the non-oil sectors, helped to sustain the recovery of the overall economy, with GDP growth rising from -1.1% in 1992 to 4.1% in 1997.

Brunei's dependence on imports renders it susceptible to external inflationary pressures. Subsidies on essential foodstuffs and petrol however play a part in controlling inflationary pressure. The average annual rate of inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), was 4% during the decade to 1990 and 2.4% between 1990 and 1994. The index increased by 6.5% in 1995, largely owing to the stiff import tariff announced by the government early in the year, although this rise was mitigated somewhat by a tariff reduction on some 700 other items in the course of the year.

In 1997 the CPI stood at a low of 1.7%, further improving from the 2% recorded the previous year when the government implemented further tariff cuts on imported consumer items, some tariffs being abolished altogether. In October 1987, the government began a year long survey of household expenditure to help it formulate a new base for the calculation of the CPI.

Brunei Darussalam has always sought to organize and direct its economic growth. There have been seven National Development Plans, covering the periods 1953-58, 1962-66, 1975-79, 1980-84, 1986-90, 1991-95 and 1996-2000 respectively. These plans, although they were far from comprehensive, delineated proposals for government investment in infrastructure, services and incentives, all aimed at diversifying the economy and at increasing private-sector participation in the economic life of the country.

In 1995, the Brunei Industrial Development Plan (IDP) was commissioned to reactivate the non-oil sector. The IDP has since produced several policy recommendations, including the development of "niche strategy" for industrial activities and the creation of an environment that is more conducive to promoting investments.

The government allocated Br\$5.5 billion (\$3.16 billion) for various sectors of the economy in the Sixth National Development Plan (1991-1995). Industry and commerce were slated to receive 10% of the total plan budget, of which Br\$100 million was to be set aside for industrial promotion and development. The social-services sector, which includes government and national housing, public facilities, education and health, was again to receive the largest allocation, at 29.3% of the total planned budget. The transport and communications sector and the public utilities sector were each to receive 20% of the total development allocation. Particular emphasis was to be placed on communications, electricity and water-supply programmes and the treatment of waste products. The remaining funds were allocated to public buildings, defense and security and miscellaneous items.

During the Sixth Plan about 5,100 houses were built under the Housing Development Programme and the Landless Indigenous Housing Scheme, in addition to a number of other institutional and private housing developments.

Under the health programme, the establishment of rural clinics to complement the private clinics and private hospital contributed significantly to the improved provision of medical and health-care services.

In the education sector, various government secondary and religious schools were completed. Also under the Sixth Plan a total of 40 kilometres of new roads were completed, 12km of suburban roads widened and a total of 180 kilometres of existing roads either upgraded or rehabilitated.

The telecommunications sector was also able to diversify its services, which resulted in a marked increase in the number of subscribers. During this period BruNet, an information network, was established to provide access to the internet.

Other infrastructural projects were undertaken such as the deepening of Muara Port and the completion of the Maura Export Zone (MEZ). Civil aviation benefited from an expansion of cargo and passenger handling at Brunei International Airport. Royal Brunei Airlines, the national carrier, operates a modern fleet of aircraft and now flies to some 25 international and regional destinations with more being negotiated.

Of nearly 1,000 programmes and projects approved for the Sixth National Plan, 58% were completed, 28% were approaching completion at the end of the plan and 11% were under way when the plan ended, leaving only 3% of the projects cancelled or suspended for various reasons.

In terms of actual expenditures, of the original Br\$5.6 billion, Br\$5 billion or 89% of the total allocation had been or was in the process of being spent.

The Seventh National Development Plan (1996-2000) forms the third stage of the implementation of a 20-year long-term development strategy that began in 1985, one year after independence. This plan aspires further to improve the quality of life for the people of Brunei Darussalam, while at the same time seeking to widen and further enhance the country's economic base. The overall aims of the plan include: the achievement of a balanced and sustained socioeconomic development through a more outward looking economic diversification strategy; the continued development of physical infrastructure and public facilities; the implementation of effective human resource development; the implementation of social development projects, the deployment of appropriate technologies and the continuing protection of the environment.

The government approved a sum of Br\$7.2 billion. The sectoral breakdown is as follows: industry 12.6% (up from 10% in the previous plan); transport and communications 19.5%; social services 27.5%; public utilities 21.9%; public building 8.8%; security (civilian projects for the police and army) 7.3%; and miscellaneous items, which included feasibility studies and local plans, 2.4%.

OIL AND GAS, THE TWIN PILLARS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Brunei Darussalam is south-east Asia's third-largest oil producer and has the world's fourth-largest production of liquefied natural gas (LNG). In 1997 oil output averaged 163,000 barrels a day (b/d), while gas production was running at 1,070 million standard cubic feet a day (MMscf/d).

As long ago as 1981, the Sultanate introduced an oil and gas conservation policy, with the aim of guaranteeing the sound management of all hydrocarbon reservoirs, and ensuring that with the very best enhanced recovery techniques, production will be sustained for the maximum time period possible. Japan and other Asean nations take between them some 70% of Brunei Darussalam's oil production. South Korea is also an important customer. Further crude oil exports go to Australia, China, Taiwan and the United States. The domestic market refines and uses only 3% of total crude production.

The on-shore Seria oil field was discovered by Shell in 1929, only weeks after other oil companies had given up the search for commercial deposits and surrendered their exploration licenses. The Seria field, which had not then been fully developed, was badly damaged during World War II. However by 1956 it was producing 114,700 barrels a day.

Off-shore discoveries led to production at sea in 1964 and there are now around 182 off-shore structures in the South-West Ampa, Fairley, Fairley-Baram (a field which is shared with Malaysia), Magpie, Gannet, Iron Duke and Champion Fields. The Champion field is the Sultanate's most prolific and holds some 40% of the country's proven reserves.

All the producing fields in Brunei Darussalam, both on-shore and off-shore are operated by the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company (BSP), which is jointly owned by the government of Brunei Darussalam and Royal Dutch Shell Petroleum.

BSP is a fully integrated operation which is responsible not only for exploration and production but also oil refining and crude oil trading. In studying complex local geological structures BSP regularly deploys the most technically advanced three-dimensional imaging equipment.

Brunei Darussalam's LNG is produced by a separate company, Brunei LNG, which liquefies product that it purchases from BSP. Brunei LNG, then sells that product to a third company, Brunei Coldgas, which markets the gas and organizes its transport to overseas customers. Brunei owns and operates a fleet of state-of-the-art LNG tankers. Both Brunei LNG and Coldgas are 50% owned by the government. In each company Royal Dutch Shell Petroleum and Mitsubishi hold a 25% stake.

A further company, Brunei Marketing, again jointly owned by the government and Royal Dutch Shell, is responsible for marketing a range of petroleum products, including gasoline, diesel, lubricants and jet fuel within Brunei itself.

When Bruneian LNG was first exported to Japan in 1974 under a 20 year contract, the technology used for the liquifaction and transport was new and ground breaking. The plant has since undergone regular upgrades, to keep abreast of advances in both in production efficiency and safety. The latest modernization programme cost in the region of \$370 million and came at a time when the Japanese supply contract had been successfully renegotiated.

Brunei Darussalam's main Japanese customers are the Tokyo Electric Power Company and the gas utilities of Tokyo and Osaka. The successful renegotiation of the LNG supply contracts to these customers was based upon the secure and reliable supply of gas throughout the first contract period. Thus the LNG Tanker fleet operated by Brunei Shell Tankers has benefited from an evergreen programme of maintenance and technical upgrading, which means that the still represent a modern and highly efficient fleet.

Brunei Darussalam enjoys one of the most unpolluted environments in the world. To keep it that way the government decided to invest in gas as an efficient and environmentally clean fuel for local power generation.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT: A BIG STORY FOR A SMALL COUNTRY

In September 1997 Brunei Darussalam signed a deal with an American communications company to permit the Sultanate to be used as an earth hub to link broadcasting satellites in geostationary orbit over the United States and Europe. The facility reinforces Brunei Darussalam's ambition to establish itself as a regional service hub and centre for communications and broadcasting.

This contract is typical of the type of high-technology investment that Brunei Darussalam is encouraging along with a range of targeted "pioneer industries" which include pharmaceuticals, cement, aluminum,

wall tiles, aircraft catering, steel rolling and chemical engineering.

Brunei Darussalam's position as a stable location with excellent infrastructure and communications in the heart of the Asean region recommends it to foreign investors, who wish to establish a regional operation in a country that enjoys excellent relations with its neighbours.

To attract these foreign investors, Brunei Darussalam has created a liberal legislative and fiscal regime which does not discriminate between local and overseas investment. The value for the Sultanate of the creation of new businesses, more often than not as joint ventures with local partners, (though in many instances 100% ownership is possible), is the opportunity such operations represent for technology transfer and the spread of business and administrative skills.

Tax breaks of up to eight years are available for new ventures, which include the waiving of duty on imported capital equipment and all production inputs that cannot be sourced in Brunei Darussalam itself. Established businesses in Brunei Darussalam that choose to expand their operations can in their turn enjoy tax breaks of up to five years and similar incentives relating to import duties.

Among other incentives is the provision that interest paid to non-resident lenders of an approved foreign loan, is exempt from withholding tax. There is no personal income tax, nor sales, payroll, manufacturing or export taxes and wages are subject only to a 5% pension contribution from both the employer and employee.

Brunei Darussalam being a small and cohesive society, foreign businessmen are never far away from decision makers and informed analysis. The Ministerial Economic Committee, established to examine the consequences and solutions of the current economic downturn includes foreign businessmen and bankers on its working groups.

Indeed, it is generally agreed that the Ministerial Economic Committee and its working groups have produced an invaluable opportunity for leading businessmen and bankers to come together with ministers and senior officials and discuss existing ideas and new approaches to the challenges that are facing the economy at this time.

However while they may be a novelty in terms of the business world, they are typical of the way in which His Majesty the Sultan and his government seek out the opinion of citizens. During 1997 government ministers and officials held a series of meetings all around the Sultanate, to which every citizen was invited to come with grievances about and suggested improvements to any government service or agency. Complaints were taken up speedily and, if justified, remedied immediately. Of equal importance was that these meetings enabled the official party to explain government policies and actions.

Business start-ups in the Sultanate may attract special finance. The Economic Development Board is responsible for directly assisting local businessmen by providing loans at favorable rates of interest for new ventures or the expansion of their existing businesses. The scheme currently provides loans for up to a maximum of Br\$1.5 million (\$862,000) at 4% interest, repayable up to a maximum period of 12 years.

The cost of utilities and services are among the lowest in the region and there is a full range of international banking and accounting services. There are no restrictions on foreign exchange. Banks permit non-resident accounts to be maintained and there are no restrictions on borrowing by non-residents.

Brunei Darussalam has one of the best telecommunications systems in south-east

Asia and there are major plans for improving it even further. The rate of telephone availability is currently one telephone for every three persons.

There are two earth satellite stations providing direct telephone, telex and facsimile links to most parts of the world. Several systems currently in operation include an analogue telephone exchange, fibre optic cable links with Singapore and Manila, a packet-switching exchange for access to high-speed computer bases overseas and a cellular mobile telephone and paging system. Direct telephone links are available to the remotest parts of the country through microwave and solar-powered telephones.

For manufacturers especially, the local market, while small, boasts high disposable incomes which could offer a lucrative domestic business base, with little or no competition, while firms also concentrate on exporting to Brunei's neighboring markets. There are regular flights with Royal Brunei Airlines to all major regional cities and a sophisticated cargo-handling facility at the ultra-modern Brunei International Airport, which is designed to handle 1.5 million passengers and 50,000 tonnes of cargo a year.

The country's two main ports at Muara and Kuala Belait provide direct shipping links to Hong Kong, Singapore and several other Asian destinations. Muara, a deep-water port 29 kilometers from the capital, was opened in 1973 and has since been considerably developed. There are 12,542 square meters of warehouse space and 6,225 square meters of transit sheds. Container yards have been increased in size and container freight station handles unstuffing operations.

The 2,000 kilometre road network serving the entire country is being expanded and modernized. A main highway runs the entire length of the country's coastline. It conveniently links Muara, the port entry at one end with Belait, the oil production centre at the western end of the state.

The official language of Brunei Darussalam is Malay but English is widely spoken and is also used in the education system. Half the population of the Sultanate is under the age of 20 and the education service has, not surprisingly, seen a massive expansion in recent years. Education is provided free from the age of five for all citizens. The government also provides scholarships for Bruneians to undertake further studies overseas, in subjects where facilities are not available locally.

There are currently two prime higher education establishments, the University of Brunei Darussalam and the Brunei Institute of Technology. The University, which was established 1985, has in recent years been receiving growing numbers of overseas students from the surrounding region. There are also various other technical and vocational institutes aimed at producing graduates who will meet the skill shortages in both the public and private sectors.

However, with such a limited population, the government recognizes that foreign investors will probably not be able to source all the skilled workers and managers they need from the local economy. There are therefore liberal regulations allowing companies based locally to hire foreign workers, from laborers to managers.

The quality of health care in Brunei Darussalam is better than that in many developed countries and all major disease have been eradicated. Malaria has been eliminated since 1970 and cholera and smallpox have also been stamped out and the Ministry of Health carries out regular immunization programmes. Moreover, Brunei Darussalam has substantially met the health requirements laid down by the World Health Organization in its Health for All by the Year 2000 programme.

Health care is free for Brunei Darussalam's citizens and is available to permanent residents, foreign citizens and their dependants for a nominal charge.

The final attraction for foreign investors is that Brunei Darussalam is an extremely pleasant place in which to live and do business. The quality of life is high, the streets of the capital are safe and the crime rate is negligible. Excellent housing is available and the children of foreign nationals have a choice of schools, including the outstanding new International School at Jerudong. Brunei Darussalam's equatorial weather may come as a surprise to new arrivals but it quickly becomes an interesting part of the pattern of life in the Sultanate, which has been fortunate in never experiencing the typhoons, earthquakes or severe floods that occasionally descend elsewhere in the region.

Brunei Darussalam is proud of its strong Islamic tradition, which is evidenced by the outstanding and impressive mosques that have been built in recent decades. Though some contend that Islam first came to the Sultanate as early as the seventh century, modern scholarship believes that it probably spread to Brunei Darussalam sometime in the 13th century. The constitution guarantees religious freedom.

For business trips, Brunei Darussalam is truly the regional hub of Asean with the flying time to Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila and Singapore between one-and-a-half and three hours flying time away.

A DIFFERENT HOLIDAY OPPORTUNITY

In a statement in 1996, the government gave details of a plan to develop Brunei as a "Service Hub for Trade and Tourism" (SHuTT) by 2003. Brunei Darussalam wants to see itself as a bridge for the EAGA member countries to the regional and global markets. At the same time, it aspires for Brunei Darussalam to become that gateway to EAGA markets for the rest of the world.

Ports, airport services and tourism services are all being upgraded as part of the move to build on Brunei's excellent regional and international telecommunications network.

Tourism is considered to be a key element in the SHuTT plan. Initiatives include the Visit Brunei Year and the production of the country's first Tourism Master Plan. A new tourism division was established under the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. Visa requirements have been relaxed (72-hour visas are now available) and border checkpoints have been upgraded.

Brunei Darussalam's location on the north east coast of Borneo, 450 kilometers north of the equator means it has a climate that combines a great deal of sunshine with a lot of rain, all of which contributes to the creation of the rich and fantastic flora and fauna of the rain forest.

Forestry and agriculture were the traditional productive sectors before the Sultanate was able to enjoy the benefits of its substantial hydrocarbon resources. The original exploitation of the rain forest therefore dated from a time when it had been managed on traditional, sustainable lines. This environmentally sensitive approach has been maintained because, unlike Brunei's neighbours, there has been no imperative to exploit the wealth of the rain forest up to and beyond supportable levels.

Brunei Darussalam therefore offers tourists a unique opportunity to visit large areas of unspoilt jungle which cover 80% of the country's land area, with an extraordinary range of biodiversity.

There are three main reserves, the largest and most striking of which is the Batu Apoi Forest Reserve covering a massive 500 square kilometres of undisturbed rain forest in

south Temburong. The Reserve contains the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre. Visitors are presented with the extraordinary chance to move around areas of the forest by way of sensitively constructed walkways which include sections that actually take them up into the canopy of the trees, where a completely different range of flora and fauna exist. The Belalong Centre is most easily accessed by water and the up river journey is an outstanding way of experiencing Borneo's jungle waterways, which cut through steep valleys where the jungle towers several hundred metres overhead.

The other reserves are the Bukit Shahbandar Forest Recreation Park and the Sungai Liang Recreation Park, which features catwalks and tower tree houses in the tree canopy.

Brunei Darussalam currently has some 1,200 hotel beds, which are due to be increased to 3,000 by 2000. By that date Brunei is hoping to have doubled the number of visitors to one million a year. Besides its astonishing rain forests, Brunei has its own attractions including the remarkable Jerudong Play Park with a wide range of state-of-the-art rides, all of which are completely free. The Bruneians have also discovered golf in recent years and there is now a series of excellent golf links including one floodlit course for the cool evenings. There are also excellent gymnasias, fitness centres and swimming pools as well as an impressive range of sports stadia where it is planned to host the upcoming Asean games. Bandar Seri Bagawan will also host to meeting of Apec at the end of the millennium and in the first year of the new century, will be mounting a

12-month-long programme of cultural and sporting events as part of the Visit Brunei Year 2001.

Royal palaces, stunning mosques and miles of sandy beaches complement the country's attractions. In a move that will broaden the visitor's horizons yet further, the Brunei Darussalam tourism authorities have also produced a campaign to market the Sultanate as part of the island of Borneo as well. A modern highway circling the whole island is under construction, so that tourists with more time to spare can plan much longer journeys in this fascinating part of the world.

There are also plans to market "medical tourism", whereby visitors could be treated at the luxurious and fully equipped and staffed Jerudong Medical Centre, whose rooms are better appointed than those of a five star hotel.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 1998, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 9

10:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Business meeting, to consider pending nominations.

SD-342

CANCELLATIONS

OCTOBER 8

9:30 a.m.

Select on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the scope of national security threats.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Select on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings on intelligence matters.

SH-219