International Trade Minister Regan Attends Independence Celebrations



The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister for International Trade, signs the guest book as Brunei Government officials look on.

In one of the best attended international celebrations in recent years, ASEAN's newest member, Negara Brunei Darussalam, marked its achievement of full independence on 23, 24 and 25 February.

Canada's representative among the seventy countries attending the celebrations was the Minister for International Trade, The Honourable Gerald Regan. Minister Regan was accompanied by his wife Carol, the Canadian High Commissioner to Malaysia and Brunei and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Charles John Small, and a member of the Canadian House of Commons and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. William Yurko.

The celebrations began on the morning of 23 February with a marching display in the National Stadium and a speech by His Majesty Sultan Muda Hassanal Bolkiah. That evening, Minister Regan and the Canadian delegation were the guests of His Majesty at a royal banquet, held in the impressive new Istana.

The following morning, Mr. Regan viewed a military display by land, sea and air wings of the Brunei Armed Forces. Mr. Regan concluded his visit with a call on the Minister of Affairs, Prince Mohammad Bolkiah, and the presentation of a Canadian tapestry as Canada's independence gift to Brunei.

INDONESIA

Embassy's Trade Promotion Initiatives Pursued in Several Indonesian Centres

On February 1, 1984 in Semarang and two weeks later in Bandung, the Canadian Embassy in Jakarta organized Canada Trade Promotion Seminars in conjunction with the local Chambers of Commerce (KADIN). These follow similar events held in Surabaya and Medan in 1982, with the objective to "open the door" to introduce the Embassy to the business communities of major commercial and industrial sectors outside of Jakarta.

In effect, the seminars provided the catalyst that led to mini "Canada Days" in each city. Maldwyn Thomas, Canada's Ambassador to Indonesia, co-timed his first official visits to both cities with the seminars, to meet with high-level government officials and visit a number of private firms in the region. The Embassy's Cultural Affairs Section concurrently held successful film evenings at local universities.

Semarang is the capital of Central Java, a largely agriculturally-oriented province with a population the size of Canada. Ambitious plans however call

for the creation of industrial centres at Semarang and at Cilicap, on the south coast of Java. It was therefore not surprising that a good portion of the



Canadian Ambassador Maldwyn Thomas addressing the trade seminar held in Bandung on February 13, 1984.

125 participants at the Semarang seminar focused on Central Java's interest to attract Canadian investors or joint-venture partners to the province, particularly in the agricultural, food processing and housing sectors.

Bandung is Indonesia's third largest city after Jakarta and Surabaya and the capital of the province of West Java. It is also the centre of Indonesia's high-technology and textile industries. Eighty representatives from the private sector, government and associations provided for a lively discussion on import and industrial cooperation opportunities, especially in the electronics and telecommunication sectors.

The seminars achieved the main objectives in establishing links with business enterprises not centralized in Jakarta and the Embassy is now in the process of following up on the many contacts made in both cities. It is expected that this format will be continued with seminars in Ujung Pandang and Manado in late 1984 or early 1985.