

# BRITISH NORTH BORNEO TREATIES.

## BRITISH NORTH BORNEO, 1878.

*(Translation)*

COMMISSION from Sultan of Sulu appointing Baron de Overbeck Datu Bandahara and Rajah of Sandakan. Dated 22nd January, 1878.

TO ALL nations on the face of the earth whom these matters may concern We Sri Paduka Maulana Al Sultan Mahomet Jamal Al Alam Bin Al Marhom Sri Paduka Al Sultan Mahomet Fathlon Sultan of Sulu and its dependencies send greeting:

WHEREAS we have seen fit to grant unto our trusty and well-beloved friends Gustavus Baron de Overbeck and Alfred Dent Esquire certain portions of the dominions owned by us comprising all the lands on the north and east coast on the island of Borneo from the Pandassan River on the north-west to the Sibuco River on the east coast including amongst others the states of Paitan, Sugut, Bangaya, Labuk, Sandakan, Kina Batangan, and Mumiang, and all the lands and territories in Darvel Bay as far as the Sibuco River together with all the islands belonging thereto for certain considerations between us agreed: and

WHEREAS the said Baron de Overbeck is the chief and only authorised representative of his Company in Borneo:

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that we the Sultan Sri Paduka Maulana Al Sultan Mohamet Jamal Al Alam Bin Al Marhom Sri Paduka Al Sultan Mohamet Fathlon Sultan of Sulu and its dependencies have nominated and appointed and hereby do nominate and appoint the said Baron de Overbeck supreme and independent ruler of the above-named territories with the title of Datu Bandahara and Rajah of Sandakan with absolute power of life and death over the inhabitants of the country with all the absolute rights of property over the soil of the country vested in us and the right to dispose of the same as well as the rights over the productions of the country whether mineral vegetable or animal with the rights of making laws coining money creating an army and navy levying customs dues on home and foreign trade and shipping and other dues and taxes on the inhabitants as to him may seem good or expedient together with all other powers and right usually exercised by and belonging to sovereign rulers and which we hereby delegate to him of our own free and sovereign will.

And we call upon all foreign nations with whom we have formed friendly treaties or alliances and we command all the Datoos Nobles Governors Chiefs and People owing allegiance to us in the said territories to receive and acknowledge the said Datu Bandahara as supreme ruler over the said States and to obey his commands and respect his authority therein as our own. And in case of the death or retirement from office of the said Datu Bandahara then his duly appointed successor in the office of supreme ruler and governor-in-chief of the Company's territories in Borneo shall likewise it appointed thereto by the Company succeed to the title of Datu Bandahara and Rajah of Sandakan and all the powers above enumerated be vested in him.

Done at the Palace of the Sultan at Lipuk in the Island of Sulu on the nineteenth of Moharam A.H. 1295, being the 22nd day of January, A.D. 1878.