

The C.J. added that he had received a memorandum from the Minister of Law, approving the continuation of (and payment for) the representation of a defendant where a capital charge was reduced to a non-capital one.

VACATIONS

There was general support for an annual vacation, during which the High Court and Intermediate Court should not sit.

It was suggested that this should coincide with the fasting month, though the week after the end of Ramadhan should be added.

This matter will be raised at the opening of the legal year, which is likely to be Tuesday 10th February, 1998.

AMENDMENTS TO PENAL CODE

Those present had their attention drawn to Gazette Notice S12 of 1997, published on 2/6/97.

This introduced the defence of diminished responsibility and prescribed new punishments for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

In particular, the maximum sentence under section 304(1) P.C. (the old first limb of section 304 P.C.) was life imprisonment, instead of a fixed sentence of life imprisonment.

While these provisions were welcomed, it was suggested that legislation on the lines of the infanticide Act, 1938, should be introduced here. The C.J. undertook to raise this suggestion with the Minister of Law.

BRUNEI LAWS

These are not satisfactory, since many of the Acts contained in the 1984 edition have been amended and no supplements issued.