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He also announced that a National Summit on Emerging Tribal Economies, whose theme is “Building Sustainable Tribal Economies,” will be held September 16-19, 2002 in Phoenix, Ariz. The event will bring corporations and federal agencies together with tribal leaders to discuss ways of producing employment opportunities in Indian Country and developing processes for sustainable, market-driven tribal economies. The summit also will showcase successful Indian Country businesses.

The Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs has responsibility for fulfilling the Department’s trust responsibility to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and individuals, as well as promoting tribal self-determination and economic development. The Assistant Secretary oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which is responsible for providing services to approximately 1.4 million American Indians and Alaska Natives and the nation’s federally recognized tribes.

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