

Dr M calls for establishment of direct air links with Poland

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called for the establishment of air links between Malaysia and Poland soon.

Dr Mahathir said this was necessary for the forging of closer bilateral relations.

Foreign Ministry deputy secretary-general Datuk Abdul Halim Ali said Dr Mahathir stated this in his talks with Polish Deputy Prime Minister Henryk J. Goryszewski at his office here today.

The Prime Minister hoped that the efforts to establish the air links would receive the co-operation of the Polish authorities.

Abdul Halim said both leaders agreed that trade and economic ties should be enhanced to involve not only primary commodities but also advanced industrial products like electronic items and computers.

Goryszewski, who arrived here early this morning, is

on a three-day official visit to the country.

Goryszewski had stated the wish of his country to buy more palm oil from Malaysia and offered co-operation in science and technology and exchange of scientists.

Abdul Halim said Poland expressed the hope that it could market its goods such as steel, heavy industrial goods and expertise in shipbuilding in Malaysia.

Also present were Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Deputy Energy, Telecommunications and Post Minister Datuk Mohamad Tajol Rosli Ghazali, who is the minister-in-attendance.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah also granted an audience to Goryszewski at the Istana Negara.

Goryszewski also visited the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia where he was given a briefing by its

director-general Dr Yusof Basiron.

Yusof said Malaysia was willing to assist in the development of palm oil-related industries in Poland.

He said Porim had organised three technical missions and seminars to promote the use of palm oil in Poland and invited key officials from that country to attend the annual Palm Oil Familiarisation Programme here.

He said the import of palm oil products by Poland had increased by 118 per cent to 15,000 tonnes in 1991, however, it dropped to 254 tonnes in 1992.

He said Poland did not import palm oil directly from Malaysia buying most of its requirement through Rotterdam traders.

"Following the implementation of the economic liberalisation and modernisation programmes in Poland, the areas for collaboration are vast," he said.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, who met Goryszewski at his Ministry, said Poland was keen to increase bilateral trade with Malaysia.

He said Poland was keen to establish direct commercial flights between the two countries as soon as possible and added that the move was backed by Malaysia.

He said Malaysia Airlines was keen to introduce services to the Polish capital, Warsaw and beyond.

He said Malaysia Airlines and the Polish national airline, LOT, would discuss details of signing an agreement as soon as LOT was privatised.

He said Poland also expressed interest in forming joint ventures in the marketing of Polish-made light aircraft and helicopters.

The two countries, he added, are also working towards formulating a shipping agreement to boost the maritime industry.