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Kamil-Envoy

AHMAD KAMIL TO TREAD PATH OF NON-CONVENTIONAL DIPLOMACY

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- Former Wisma Putra secretary-general Tan Sri Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, who is now the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, said his main responsibility is to take care of issues not handled through conventional diplomacy.

"I'm happy to be given the confidence by the Prime Minister himself. I'll continue to handle a number of things that I have been doing before," he told Bernama after his appointment as special envoy was formally announced by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his closing address at the Umno general assembly here today.

This appointment is the first of its kind. Ahmad Kamil, who retired on Aug 27, has also been made co-chairman of the Malaysia-Thailand Joint Authority.

Dr Mahathir had praised Ahmad Kamil and Tan Sri Ahmad Razali, now president of the United Nations General Assembly, for boosting Malaysia's image on the international front.

Dr Mahathir said Ahmad Kamil had carved a name for himself in handling East European affairs in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia and he is now a familiar figure with leaders of the countries in the Balkan region.

A well-known and widely-respected diplomat, Ahmad Kamil, 59, said he will continue to have an office at the Foreign Ministry and receive his assignments from the Prime Minister.

Asked if he has been given a specific task for the near future, he said there are no plans yet.

On what kind of role Malaysia will play in Bosnia-Herzegovina which held elections recently after almost four years of civil war, Ahmad Kamil said the peace in the Balkan country is still shaky.

"We will continue to help them economically and in so far as economic matters are concerned, we are prepared to join hands with any country for Bosnia," he said. -- BERNAMA

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