

30 DEC 1996

Ambassador-Return

AHMAD MOKHTAR TO ARRIVE IN KL ON WEDNESDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 30 (Bernama) -- Malaysian ambassador Ahmad Mokhtar Selat, who was released from 12 days of captivity by Peruvian rebels in Lima yesterday, will arrive here on Wednesday.

He will be accompanied by his family and Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, according to an official of the Malaysian mission in Peru today.

The official said the Malaysia Airlines flight MH91 bringing them home is scheduled to land at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport at 12.45pm.

They were expected to leave Lima for Mexico City enroute to Los Angeles in the United States to board their plane for Malaysia.

Ahmad Mokhtar was among the latest group of 20 hostages freed yesterday by the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement guerrillas who seized the Japanese ambassador's residence and took captive hundreds of people attending a reception on Dec 17.

The guerrillas demanded the release of about 400 of their jailed comrades.

Most of the hostages have been freed in groups or individually, and there remained only 83 still in captivity.

The Malaysia embassy official said Abdullah had left Lima for Mexico City when the announcement on the release of Ahmad Mokhtar came five hours later, and he took the next plane back to the Peruvian capital.

Abdullah had arrived in Lima on Thursday on a special mission at the instruction of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to secure the early and safe release of Ahmad Mokhtar. -- BERNAMA

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