

27 MAR 1996

Croatia-embassy

CROATIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALLY OPENED

KUALA LUMPUR, March 27 (Bernama) -- The Croatian embassy, here, which began its services seven months ago, was officially opened by its Deputy Prime Minister Dr Mate Granic today in conjunction with his visit to Malaysia.

The embassy, housed in a modest bungalow at No 3, Jalan Mengkuang, Ampang, is Croatia's 80th embassy in the world.

The national anthems of Malaysia and Croatia were played before the official opening attended by some 100 people.

Dr Granic, who is leading a six-member delegation, arrived here yesterday for a three-day official visit.

Present at the ceremony were Puan Jadranko Granic, Croatian Assistant Minister for Bilateral Political Affairs ll Frane Krnic, Assistant Minister for Economic and Bilateral Affairs Spomenka Cek, Malaysian Foreign Ministry Deputy Secretary-General ll Datuk Hasni Agam, Croatian Ambassador to Malaysia Kresimir Znidaric and members of the diplomatic corps.

Also present were journalists from the Croatian Radio and Television stations and its official news agency, Hrvatska Information National agency (Hina).

In his speech, Dr Granic, who is also the republic's Minister of Foreign Affairs, said bilateral relations between the two countries had an excellent chance to develop further in many fields.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Croatia next month would further strengthen the existing ties between the two countries which started their diplomatic ties two years ago.

Dr Granic said Malaysia and Croatia had a similar approach concerning the Bosnian-Croat Federation and Kuala Lumpur played an important role during the Bosnian conflict and after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

"We are optimistic about the implementation of the Dayton Agreement and also hope to improve relations with our neighbours and other European countries," he said.

He said Croatia, being the youngest European country, would strive harder for a long lasting peace and stability in the Balkan region.

The Croatian people, who proclaimed their independence from the Yugoslav Republic six years ago, have deep European roots and are one of the oldest European races. -- Bernama

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