

25 MAR 1996

DR MAHATHIR HOLDING TALKS WITH AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

DARWIN, March 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad, whose plane made a refuelling stop here, is holding informal talks with Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer.

The talks are expected to last about 45 minutes before Dr Mahathir continues his journey to New Zealand for a three-day official visit.

Dr Mahathir is not expected to make any public comment but Downer will make a statement on the outcome of the talks between them.

Dr Mahathir will make another stopover in Australia enroute home on Friday and meet his Australian counterpart John Howard in Brisbane. --

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