

25 DEC 1996

Abdullah-Meeting

EMBASSY TRYING TO ARRANGE MEETING BETWEEN ABDULLAH AND FUJIMORI

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 25 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Embassy in Lima is trying to arrange a meeting between Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Peru's President Alberto Fujimori and other ministers to discuss the holding of the Malaysian ambassador as hostage by rebels along with more than 100 others.

Malaysian Ambassador to Brazil Datuk Zainal Abidin Zain, who is in temporary charge of the Lima embassy, said the meeting is aimed at intensifying efforts to secure the early release of Ambassador Ahmad Mokhtar Selat.

A decision on the meeting is only expected to be known tomorrow (Wednesday evening in Peru) in view of the Christmas holiday, he said when contacted by Bernama tonight.

Abdullah left for Lima this morning on a special mission on the instruction of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Zainal Abidin said Abdullah is expected to arrive in the Peruvian capital tomorrow morning (Malaysian time).

"There has been no change on the fate of the hostages. However, the International Committee of the Red Cross provided special food to the hostages in conjunction with Christmas," he added.

Ahmad Mokhtar was among several hundred guests taken hostage by the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement at a reception at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima on Dec 17.

The rebels have released more than 450 of the hostages and there were still 105 held captive. -- BERNAMA.

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