

27 MAR 1996

Abdullah - Croatia

FULL SUPPORT TO CROAT-BOSNIA FEDERATION, MALAYSIA ASSURED

KUALA LUMPUR, March 27 (Bernama) -- Croatia assured Malaysia today of its full support to the formation of the Croat-Bosnia Federation in ensuring the success of the Dayton Agreement.

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic said this during his meeting with Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi here.

Abdullah told reporters that the Croatian government viewed the success of the federation as important to ensure the existence of Bosnia Herzegovina as provided for in the Dayton peace accord.

Abdullah said he regarded Granic's statement as very important towards the establishment of Bosnia Herzegovina as an independent and sovereign nation.

"I told Granic that we also has the same view and hope that the Croatian government will support the federation," he said.

Abdullah was also assured that the Croatian government would strive to persuade its people to accept the federation.

The accord signed by Serbian, Bosnia and Croatian presidents in Dayton, Ohio last year among others provides for the setting up of two territories, one for the Bosnia dan Croatia and another for Serbia.

Abdullah said he also informed Granic of the visit of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Croatia next month.

"Malaysia attaches importance to the visit not only in enhancing bilateral ties but also fostering cooperation between Malaysia and Croatia in the rebuilding of Bosnia Herzegovina," he said.

He said Dr Mahathir would hold discussions with the leaders there on efforts to rebuild the former state of Yugoslavia.

Abdullah also said Malaysia and Croatia agreed in principle to set up a corporate body comprising companies in Malaysia, Croatia and Bosnia to rebuild Bosnia Herzegovina.

Croatia had agreed to the proposal which was made by Malaysia and the matter would be discussed during Dr Mahathir's visit to Croatia, he said.

He said Granic also expressed his country's desire to learn from Malaysia's experience in attracting foreign investments.

Granic also suggested that Malaysia involved itself in port development and warehouse construction in Croatia.

Granic who is also Croatian Deputy Prime Minister and his delegation arrived yesterday for a three-day visit to Malaysia. --Bernama

MAM ABG