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Bosnia-Bildt

INTERNATIONAL BOSNIA REPRESENTATIVE VISITS MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, April 5 (Bernama) -- International High Representative to Bosnia-Herzegovina Carl Bildt arrives tomorrow for a two-day stopover to update and to seek Malaysia's support on the restructuring of the war-ravaged Balkan state.

Bildt is scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in the afternoon, said a Wisma Putra official today.

The former Swedish Prime Minister and Abdullah are also expected to discuss the second donors conference for Bosnia set in Brussels on April 12 and 13.

Bildt is also scheduled to call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Bildt, who oversees the implementation of the Dayton peace accord on Bosnia, is no stranger to Malaysia. He made an official visit to Malaysia in 1994 as prime minister.

He would be accompanied this time by special adviser Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, spokesman Michael Maclay and personal secretary Bjorn Lyvvall.

Malaysia has adopted a strong stance against the carnage in Bosnia and taken a leading role within the Organisation of Islamic Conference to form an assistance mobilisation group to help reconstruct the country.

Its latest efforts include a two-month nation-wide effort by teachers and schoolchildren to raise RM3.2 million (US\$1.3 million) to rebuild a school in Sarajevo.

The money would be handed over by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the Bosnian government during his trip to the Balkan region later this month.

According to reports, the World Bank estimates that Bosnia needs some US\$5.1 billion (RM12.75 billion) over three or four years to meet pressing reconstruction needs.

An inaugural donors conference last December raised pledges of US\$500 million (RM1.25 billion) for the first six months of 1996.

Bildt heads for Tokyo from here. -- Bernama

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