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Abdullah: Timing of summit may be changed

FOREIGN Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia has no problem about attending the G-15 Summit, whether it is held every year or once in two years.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had attended the summit since it was first held in 1990 in Kuala Lumpur.

The frequency of the summit was discussed among delegates and ministers in the last couple of days. Abdullah yesterday gave a briefing on the issue to Dr Mahathir who chairs the meeting today.

Abdullah said there was a question of the timing of the Summit where certain members found it difficult to attend it due to other more urgent obligations.

Abdullah said there was a possibility that the timing would move forward from the last quarter of the year.

"This is because the leaders of the Latin American countries are busy with Summit of Iberia while others are engaged in elections," he added.

Asked whether G-15 will impose any criteria on new membership, he said there would be no changes or addition to the existing requirements.

On Saturday, the Foreign Ministers deliberated on the issue at length but no decision was made.

The Foreign Ministers decided that the matter should be best left to the leaders who will also deal with other pressing issues like the question of membership, and the need for the grouping to raise its profile internationally.

Meanwhile, Abdullah said Dr Mahathir was right all the time with regard to his call for regulating currency trading.

He said this when asked to comment on US financier George Soros' call for financial markets to be kept under control.

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