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APEC: CLINTON TO MEET ASEAN LEADERS OVER BREAKFAST

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VANCOUVER, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- United States President Bill Clinton is scheduled to hold a breakfast meeting here on Monday with Asean leaders including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Asean leaders and Clinton are among 18 Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) leaders arriving in this Canadian city for their two-day annual summit, beginning on Tuesday.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Stanley Roth told a news conference on Saturday that the meeting would demonstrate Washington's concern over the current problems in the financial and capital markets faced by the Asean economies.

He said the U.S. would want to express its support for the efforts taken by Asean countries to overcome the problem.

Another significance of the meeting was that Asean was Washington's fourth largest trading partner and events in that region would have an effect on its economy.

He said Asean was a strategic economic region for the U.S. and believed that the grouping played a major role in Apec. -- BERNAMA

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