

05/06/1997

Bar Council official on US Visitor Programme

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Bar Council vice-president R.R. Chelvarajah has been awarded a scholarship to participate in the International Visitor Programme under the auspices of the United States Information Service.

He will join senior members of the judiciary and legal professions from various parts of the world for the indepth month-long study tour titled Independent Judiciary. He left for the US last week.

Before leaving, Chelvarajah said: "I am honoured to be invited for this programme."

Among the objectives of the programme are:

- \* Exploring the role an independent judiciary plays in a democracy;
- \* Familiarising participants with the principles of the American judicial and legal systems, particularly the separation of powers, the Federal Courts and the operations of State and Municipal Courts;
- \* Understanding current trends in American Federalism and Devolution, and the Administration of Courts and Justice Policies; and
- \* Discussing court management, continuing legal education, civil and criminal justice and law enforcement in the US.

Some of the highlights of the programme will be visiting judicial training institutions such as the national Judicial College in Nevada and meeting representatives of the executive, judicial and legislative branches of the US Government.

The group will see various stages of a case, from police operations through indictment, trial, sentencing, incarceration and appeal.

During the last 55 years, more than 100,000 visitors from many nations have been awarded this International Visitor Programme which believes that such people-to-people diplomacy is one of the best ways to promote international understanding and co-operation.

The programme covers a very wide spectrum of disciplines and each programme is specially designed to cater to the specific profession of the visitors.

One hundred and forty-five Heads of State or Heads of Government, including Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the late Tun Abdul Razak, have participated in this programme.

(END)