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CUBA TO SET UP EMBASSY IN KL

KUALA LUMPUR, April 11 (Bernama) -- Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today Malaysia welcomed Cuba's proposal to set up a resident mission in Kuala Lumpur.

Speaking to reporters after his talks with visiting Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Raobaina Gonzales at Wisma Putra, Abdullah said Gonzales informed him of his country's wish to set up a resident diplomatic mission here.

At present Cuba's Ambassador to Laos is also accredited to Malaysia while Malaysia's dealings with Cuba were handled by its mission in the United States.

Abdullah said setting up of embassies was a logical step when relations between countries expanded.

He also said Gonzales had extended an invitation from Cuban President Fidel Castro to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to visit Cuba.

Abdullah said Cuba was keen to share its experience with Malaysia in various areas such as development, poverty eradication, plantations and rural development.

Gonzales arrived here on Wednesday for a five-day visit to Malaysia. --

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