

13 APR 1997

Departure

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES AFTER FIVE-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 13 (Bernama) -- Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzales, who is on a tour of Asian countries, left here today for Brunei after a five-day official visit, the first by a high-ranking official of the Castro administration.

The visit by Gonzales and his delegation comprising government officials was also to reciprocate the visit by Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat to Cuba in February in his capacity as Barisan Nasional secretary-general.

During his visit, Gonzales informed Malaysia of his country's wish to set up a resident diplomatic mission here as Cuba is ready to establish formal ties with Malaysia.

At present, Cuba's ambassador to Laos is accredited to Malaysia while Malaysia's dealings with Cuba are handled by its mission in the United States.

Both countries also plan to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in broadcasting and information in a few months.

While here, Gonzales called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He also gave a talk on "Cuba: The Challenges To Defend Sovereignty, Development and Independence" at the Institute of Diplomatic and Foreign Relations here. -- BERNAMA

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