

09 APR 1997

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR FIVE-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR -- Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived here Wednesday for a five-day official visit, the first by a high-ranking official of the Castro administration.

Robaina, who is touring Asian countries, was met on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport by senior Foreign Ministry officials.

His visit reciprocates that made by Information Minister Mohamed Rahmat to Cuba last February in his capacity as National Front secretary-general.

Malaysia and Cuba have no diplomatic ties and Mohamed's visit was seen as a move towards that.

Tomorrow Robaina will call on the Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Robaina and his Malaysian counterpart Abdullah Ahmad Badawi are scheduled for talks on Friday. -- BERNAMA

ZAB RN