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Envoy meets PM to express gratitude

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Malaysia's Ambassador to Peru Ahmad Mokhtar Selat, who was held hostage by rebels in Lima, today met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to express his gratitude to the Government for its efforts in securing his release.

Ahmad Mokhtar was accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Malaysian Ambassador to Brazil Datuk Zainal Abidin Zain and Foreign Ministry secretary-general Datuk Abdul Kadir Mohamad in the one-hour meeting at the Prime Minister's Department.

Abdullah, who was in Lima on a special mission to secure the release of Ahmad Mokhtar, said he also briefed Dr Mahathir on his meeting with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

On measures to beef up security in Malaysian embassies in certain countries, Abdullah said the matter would be studied and recommendations would be made to the Government.

Ahmad Mokhtar was among some 500 guests held hostage at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in the Peruvian capital when guerillas from the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Front stormed the place on Dec 17.

He was freed along with 20 others after 12 days of being held hostage.

In Kemaman earlier, Abdullah said the hostage-taking incident had not affected ties between Kuala Lumpur and Lima.

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