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FRANCE KEEN TO JOIN ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

KUALA LUMPUR, March 10 (Bernama) -- France today conveyed its desire to become a member of the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Visiting French Defence Minister Charles Millon raised the possibility with Dr Mahathir when he called on him at his office in the Prime Minister's Department.

Briefing the press on the talks, Malaysian Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said apart from its links with Asean via the European Union, France also hoped to join the ARF.

Millon also sought Dr Mahathir's views on regional and international issues and they discussed the role France could play to strengthen ties between his country and Malaysia and between Asean and the EU.

Millon also offered France's expertise and technology in the field of development and research.

"The Prime Minister gave his views on regional and international issues," Syed Hamid added.

Millon arrived here yesterday for a three-day visit. -- BERNAMA  
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