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G15-Retreat

G15 LEADERS HOLD TALKS AT SEASIDE RETREAT IN HISTORICAL MELAKA

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MELAKA, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Leaders of the Group of 15 (G15) held talks at a beach resort here today as they gathered for a one-day retreat at this historical city and a popular tourist attraction.

Officials said the retreat would enable the leaders, who began a three-day summit yesterday, to continue their deliberations in a casual and relaxed atmosphere.

Attendance and frequency of the summit might be discussed," said a senior Wisma Putra official before the leaders began their meeting at the Riviera Bay Resort, about 10km from here.

" Some leaders may have things to bring up, so this is a good place to discuss them," he told Bernama.

Apart from host Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, other leaders attending the seventh annual summit are President Suharto of Indonesia, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

India and Argentina are represented by their vice-presidents Krishan Kant and Carlos Ruckauf, respectively, while Deputy Prime Minister Seymour Mullings is representing Jamaica.

Other countries are represented by their ministers and Venezuela by its ambassador to Malaysia.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin said Melaka was honoured to be chosen for the retreat.

Arriving in two coaches from Kuala Lumpur, the leaders travelled along the 800km North-South expressway, passing through the fringes of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), an information technology hub, south of Kuala Lumpur.

After lunch and another round of talks in the afternoon, the leaders would visit places such as the Cultural Museum, the gateway of the former Portuguese fort "A Famosa" and the Independence Memorial, which was opened by Dr Mahathir in conjunction with the National Day hosted by Melaka in 1985.

Malaysia's first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj had announced the date of the country's independence at the memorial site on his return after successful negotiations from England on Feb 20, 1956. --

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