

21 AUG 1997

Li Peng-statement

LI PENG ENVISAGES BETTER SINO-M'SIA TIES

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 21 (Bernama) -- China's Premier Li Peng, who arrived here today for a four-day official visit, expressed hope that ties between the two countries will be further enhanced.

"My current visit to Malaysia is one of friendship and cooperation," he said in a statement issued upon arrival at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang.

He said he looked forward to having in-depth exchange of views on bi-lateral relations with his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and other Malaysian leaders.

He said China and Malaysia are friendly neighbours and their people enjoy a profound friendship.

Over the years Sino-Malaysia bilateral relations had witnessed rapid development as evident by the frequent exchanges of visits between leaders of both countries, he said.

He described the results of their cooperation in economic and trade, cultural and educational fields as gratifying.

Li hoped existing friendly relations could be pushed up to a new height and that the visit would enable him to see for himself Malaysia's socio-economic achievements.

Li's 117-member entourage includes his wife Zhu Lin, Deputy Secretary-General of the State Council He Chunlin, Minister of the Machine-Building Industry Bao Xuding, Vice-Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, and other senior government officials.

He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa, who is the minister-in-attendance.

The official welcoming ceremony was held immediately after that at Parliament Square here.

Li's itinerary includes bilateral talks with Dr Mahathir tomorrow.--

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