

23 SEP 1997

Mahathir-visit

MAHATHIR ON FOUR-NATION TOUR FROM THURSDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 23 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will visit Cuba, Chile, Uruguay and Argentina from Sept 25 to Oct 5 to strengthen ties between Malaysia and these countries.

Wisma Putra said in a statement today that Dr Mahathir will be accompanied by several ministers, deputy minister, Members of Parliament, Menteri Besar, senior government officials and businessmen.

The visit to Cuba and Uruguay will be Dr Mahathir's first official visit to the two countries, on the invitation of the President Fidel Castro and President Dr Julio Maria Sanguinetti respectively.

It will also be Dr Mahathir's second visit to Chile, the first being in 1991 when he was invited to address the 12th assembly of Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC XII).

Apart from accepting the invitation of President Dr Carlos Saul Menem to visit Argentina, Dr Mahathir has also been invited to speak at the inauguration of the Asean-Mercosur Business Council in Argentina.

-- BERNAMA

MAM ABG