

30 MAY 1997

Jamaica

MALAYSIA HOPES JAMAICAN PM WILL ATTEND G-15 SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 30 (Bernama) -- Malaysia hopes to see Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson at the Seventh G-15 Heads of Government Summit to be held here from Nov 3 to 5, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said Jamaica's participation at the summit would be very meaningful for the G-15 as it was a major player in the Caribbean region in terms of south-south cooperation.

Speaking to reporters after talks with Jamaican Minister of Industry, Investment and Trade, Dr Paul Robertson, at Wisma Putra here, Abdullah said Jamaica expected to hold general elections during that time.

He said Robertson nevertheless agreed to persuade his prime minister to attend the summit.

The G-15 comprises Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

This is the second summit here, after Kuala Lumpur hosted the inaugural summit in June 1990.

"The G-15 is indeed a catalyst for ensuring the success of South-South cooperation. In the Caribbean, this role is played by Jamaica," Abdullah said.

On his talks with the Jamaican Minister, he said both Kingston and Kuala Lumpur agreed that there was a need to expand bilateral relations in trade and other economic sectors as there was huge untapped potential in these areas.

Abdullah said he agreed to relay Jamaica's intention of becoming a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council by 2000 to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Meanwhile, on the Hongkong handover, Abdullah said Malaysia had decided to change the status of its mission there from a commission to a consulate with effect from July 1, the day Hongkong returns to China.

"China has agreed to this and I have signed a document on this matter together with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen while on an official visit to the country middle of this month," he said.

On Malaysia's future economic and trade relations with Hongkong, Abdullah said things would remain as they were.

"Our relations with Hongkong concern trade and economics. On political matters we deal with Beijing. China understands the relations we have had all along with Hongkong," he said.

Asked about the Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting tomorrow, Abdullah said matters in the agenda included discussions on the timing for the admission of Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos. -- BERNAMA

NHD LL AAM