

06 OCT 1997

Mahathir-Return

PM RETURNS AFTER A 12-DAY TOUR TO LATIN AMERICA

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad returned today after a successful 12-day tour of the Caribbean and Latin America to a rousing welcome.

The chartered Malaysia Airlines (MAS) aircraft carrying Dr Mahathir and his entourage touched down at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International airport in Subang near here at 4.45pm.

Among those present at the airport to welcome the Prime Minister were several Cabinet ministers including Information Minister Datuk Mohamad Rahmat, Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh and Agriculture Minister Datuk Amar Sulaiman Daud.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by an official delegation comprising, among others, Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu and a high-powered business group led by YTL Corp Berhad managing director Tan Sri Francis Yeoh.

The Prime Minister left here for Havana on Sept 24 for a two-day visit to Cuba.

While in Cuba, Dr Mahathir held a four-eyed meeting with President Fidel Castro and witnessed the signing of several agreements, among them, on visa abolition.

He also made a technical stop-over in Madrid en route to Havana and called on his Spanish counterpart, Jose Maria Aznar.

After Cuba, Dr Mahathir visited Chile and attended the 12th Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) in Santiago.

From Santiago, he proceeded to Montevideo, Uruguay for a two-day official visit after which he wrapped up his tour with a three-day visit to Argentina.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to hold a news conference at the airport later.

-- BERNAMA

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