

22 JUL 1997

Mahathir-Asean

PM TO DISCUSS CAMBODIAN CRISIS WITH ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he will hold discussions with the Asean Foreign Ministers on the Cambodian crisis.

The discussions would determine the next course of action to be taken regarding Cambodia's entry into Asean, he told reporters on his return here after a two-month vacation abroad.

The Asean Foreign Ministers are scheduled to call on Dr Mahathir on Thursday, before the opening of the annual Asean Ministerial Meeting (AMM).

So far, the status of Cambodia as "observers" in the AMM has not been decided. Yesterday, Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Datuk Abdul Kadir Mohamed said that the matter would be discussed by the Asean Foreign Ministers tomorrow.

The Asean Foreign Ministers deferred Cambodia's entry into Asean at their meeting on July 10 following the leadership crisis in Phnom Penh which saw the ouster of first prime minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh by second prime minister Hun Sen.

Phnom Penh attended the AMM as "observers" for the past three years. --  
BERNAMA

ES RM