

19 AUG 1997

Abdullah-Office

PROPOSAL TO OPEN OFFICE IN NEW YORK FOR SMALL C'WEALTH COUNTRIES

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will consider making financial contribution to set up an office in New York for small Commonwealth countries, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said he had been told that US\$600,000 (RM1.6 million) was required to set up the office.

"We will consider the amount to contribute for the purpose," he told reporters after meeting Commonwealth secretary-general Chief Emeka Anyaoku at Wisma Putra.

Abdullah said many Commonwealth member countries could ill-afford to open an office in New York owing to high operational costs. The United Nations is also in New York.

He said any Commonwealth country which had the financial resources should contribute their bit as smaller countries were also part of the Commonwealth family.

Meanwhile, Anyaoku said he was satisfied with his five-day visit to Malaysia as part of preparations for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Edinburgh, Scotland in October.

He expressed confidence that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would make a meaningful contribution to ensure CHOGM was a success.

-- BERNAMA

MAM TS