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ROBIN COOK TO VISIT MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Robin Cook will be making a two-day visit to Malaysia starting Aug 27.

A British High Commission statement here today said Cook was scheduled to call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He will hold talks with Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Cook will also perform the ground-breaking of the British Malaysian Institute complex together with Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed and address a function organised by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations.

After Malaysia, he will visit Indonesia, the Philippines and Singapore.

"In his meetings with ministers in each country, the Secretary of State will set out the British Government's foreign policy priorities which include a deepening of its relations across Asia and ensuring respect for human rights," the statement said.

It also quoted Cook as saying that he intended to use his visit to give new impetus to Britain's relationship with its Southeast Asian partners.

He also said the regional grouping, Asean had made extraordinary progress in the last 30 years and it was now established as a significant global player in both economic and political terms. -- BERNAMA

MAM ABG