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US DEFENCE SECRETARY TO VISIT MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 29 (Bernama) -- United States Defence Secretary William Cohen is due here on Jan 11 for a three-day working visit as part of his Southeast Asian tour.

While here, Cohen will attend the Pacific Dialogue, an annual gathering of prominent regional economics and security experts, on Jan 12 and 13, said US embassy press attache James Warren when contacted today.

The dialogue, to be chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, is organised by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (Isis) Malaysia.

Cohen attended last year's dialogue representing the US Senate and was among the signatories to the Pacific Group Charter, a vision paper to forge peace, stability and prosperity for the Pacific region.

Meanwhile, an Isis official said Cohen will speak on regional security and defence cooperation on the first day of the dialogue.

Senior US Defence Department, Department of State and National Security Council officials including Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs (State) Stanley Roth and Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (Defence) Kenneth Bacon will be accompanying him.

Cohen is also expected to call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for bilateral talks, Warren added.-- BERNAMA

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