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Abdullah-APEC

APEC SUMMIT IS DEFINITELY ON IN KL- ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit will definitely be held here next month and US President Bill Clinton is coming, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

"President Clinton has stated that he will attend the Apec summit in Kuala Lumpur," Abdullah told a news conference here.

He was commenting on news reports that two United States Congressmen had asked President Clinton to pressure for the summit venue to be moved from KL.

Abdullah said US Congressmen were free to advise their President.

"That is the Congressmen's right to advise their president whether to come here or not," he said.

According to the reports the White House was said to be reluctant to say whether Clinton's visit to Malaysia for the Nov 17-18 summit was an official or state visit.

Abdullah said there was no confusion as to the status of the Clinton visit.

"We understand that heads of state are coming to Kuala Lumpur to attend the Apec summit as such and are not making official or state visits to Malaysia," he said.

On the two Congressmen's request to President Clinton to inform Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the economic measures taken by Malaysia were "highly offensive", Abdullah said Malaysia's actions were for its own good and was not aimed at inconveniencing other countries.

Abdullah described the Congressmen's action as condescending, finger pointing and arrogant.

" They should realise that they are the ones who are being highly offensive towards Malaysia," he said.

Earlier he signed three agreements on behalf of Malaysia on technical, scientific and economic cooperation as well as trade and investment collaboration with Ethiopia's Trade and Industry Minister Kasahun Ayele.

-- BERNAMA

HAK AAM