

04 NOV 1998

Goh-Visit

GOH MEETS DR MAHATHIR IN KUALA LUMPUR TOMORROW

SINGAPORE, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong will meet his Malaysian counterpart, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

A single paragraph statement from Goh's office late tonight said he would make a one-day visit to Kuala Lumpur tomorrow at the invitation of Dr Mahathir "to resume discussions on outstanding matters discussed at their last meeting in Johor Baru on 18 April 1998".

Ties between Malaysia and Singapore were strained in recent months over several issues. Among them were a quarrel over the maintenance of the Malaysian rail immigration facilities at the Malaysian KTM-run Tanjung Pagar train station, pension savings of peninsular Malaysian workers in Singapore and a request for more water supply from Malaysia.

Singapore former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew, now Senior Minister, again stirred up controversy across the Causeway with his memoirs launched in September that was criticised by Malaysian leaders for alleged historical distortions.

The Malaysian defence ministry has also complained of intrusions by Singapore air force planes into Malaysian territory which were all denied.

However, both sides had indicated their readiness to patch up over the past week.

Dr Mahathir said last week that the frosty ties had turned for the better and that he had a very sound relationship with Goh.

Goh responded by saying that Singapore was keen to put relations back on keel and that he sensed both sides would like to do so. He also said that it was not in the interest of either country to have poor relations.

The leaders last met in April to jointly open a second crossing between the two countries. Goh also visited Kuala Lumpur in February.

-- BERNAMA

TCL JK