

15 FEB 1998

PM GOH GOES TO KL WITH POSITIVE OUTLOOK

SINGAPORE, Feb 15 (Bernama) -- Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong will go to Kuala Lumpur for a two-day visit starting tomorrow "with a positive outlook", reports The Sunday Times today.

The Sunday paper quoted Goh as saying he was meeting Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad "not to think there are problems to be solved, but how we can work together".

Goh said finding a new base to forge closer cooperation between Singapore and Malaysia was what he would do during his talks with Dr Mahathir.

Asked about issues to be brought up, the Singapore Prime Minister said he would not want to approach it on an issues basis.

"It is generally to see whether we can find a new base for us to forge closer cooperation," he added.

Still, the regional economic crisis will be top of the agenda.

The two leaders have already met twice this year, on Jan 20 in Johor and again in Singapore on Feb 7.

Yesterday, Singapore's The Straits Times and Business Times, in an interview with Dr Mahathir in Kuala Lumpur on Friday ahead of Goh's visit, reported that Malaysia and Singapore could resolve many of their bilateral problems if both countries could be flexible.

Dr Mahathir was quoted as saying both sides must be willing to see each other's point of view and that there must be areas for compromise.

He also noted that bilateral relations now were much better compared to last year and that Singapore and Malaysia could work for better ties and both countries could compete with and complement each other. -- BERNAMA

THG RM