

04 MAR 1998

Abdullah

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT INDONESIA, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, March 4 (Bernama) -- Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today Indonesia must be given continuous support to tackle its economic woes to restore confidence in the region.

"This is important to enable its leadership to tackle the economic problems of the country," he told reporters after meeting United States Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Stanley Roth, at Wisma Putra, here.

Abdullah said Roth and he shared the view that "friendly countries" should continue to give their support to Indonesia and it was Asean's desire to have peace and stability which could help the region's economic recovery.

He said Malaysia would cooperate with whoever was chosen by the Indonesian people to lead the country.

President Suharto has been nominated for a seventh consecutive term with Research and Technology Minister B.J.Habibie as his vice-presidential running mate.

Roth made a stopover here after accompanying President Bill Clinton's special envoy, Walter Mondale, to Indonesia to discuss the latest developments there.

Abdullah later met British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Derek Fatchett.

Fatchett later told reporters that the second Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) in London next month would be largely devoted to the current economic and financial difficulties gripping Asia.

"That is inevitably the case because of the nature of the problems and Europe's involvement with those problems," he said.

Fatchett, who earlier had talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, later left for Jakarta.

Asked on his meeting with Dr Mahathir, Fatchett said: "We have taken this chance to discuss the Asem conference. We looked, in particular, at the financial difficulties facing the region."

He was "delighted" that the Malaysian economy was showing "good signs" of recovery.

They also discussed the format for Asem and bilateral issues. --

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