

17 OCT 1999

Arafat-Visit

ARAFAT IN BRIEF VISIT TO M'SIA, MEETS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- Palestine President Yasser Arafat held talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during a brief visit to Malaysia today.

Arafat, leading a 10-member delegation, discussed bilateral cooperation and the latest development in the West Asian peace process with the Malaysian leader.

Nik Mustafa Nik Ahmad, Wisma Putra's principal assistant secretary for the West Asian region, said Arafat and his delegation arrived at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang at about 2pm aboard a special jet.

Their hour-long meeting with Dr Mahathir began at about 7.40pm at a leading hotel.

It was also attended by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and Palestinian Minister of Local Government Dr Saeb Erilat, a main negotiator in peace talks with Israel.

Nik Mustafa said the Palestinian delegation also included Planning and International Cooperation Minister Dr Nadil Shaat and Ambassador to Malaysia Ahmad Al-Farra.

The Palestinian delegation was on its way to Jeddah after visits to Japan and Vietnam.

-- BERNAMA

mny sk