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Chinese army chief calls on Minister

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - China's People's Liberation Army chief of general staff General Fu Quanyou today called on newly-appointed Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha at the Defence Ministry in Jalan Padang Tembak.

Fu, who is on a five-day official visit here until Friday, arrived with a nine-member delegation at the ministry about 2.30pm.

The delegation included Lan Zhou military area command chief Lt-Gen Guo Boxiong, South China Sea fleet chief of staff Rear Admiral Huang Jiang and Shen Yang military area Air Force Command chief of staff Maj-Gen Li Donghui.

In a Press statement, Abang Abu Bakar said he hoped Fu's visit would strengthen relations between Malaysia and China.

This, he said, augured well for the stability and well-being of countries in the region, which were recovering from the economic downturn.

Abang Abu Bakar, meanwhile, extended an invitation through Fu for China's Defence Minister to visit Malaysia to strengthen bilateral relations.

Fu, 69, who joined the army in 1946, is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tomorrow.

He was promoted chief of staff and appointed a member of the Central Military Commission in September 1995.

While here, Fu and his delegation will visit the air force bases in Butterworth and Kuching, and the Sungai Udang army camp in Malacca.

Earlier, Fu called on armed forces chief Jen Datuk Seri Mohd Zahidi Zainuddin at the ministry.

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