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Hamid-Poland

MALAYSIA AND POLAND TO FURTHER IMPROVE BILATERAL TIES

KUALA LUMPUR, March 15 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Poland today agreed to further improve bilateral ties especially in tourism and air services, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

He said Malaysia Airlines (MAS) and Polish Airline would operate flights between major cities in both countries.

"Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) said it is good if both MAS and Polish Airline made stops in the respective capitals," Syed Hamid told reporters after a delegation meeting between Malaysia and Poland at the Prime Minister's Department, here.

The Malaysian delegation was led by Dr Mahathir with Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski headed Poland's delegation.

Syed Hamid said Poland had offered to sell arms to Malaysia like armoured cars.

"We told them the present economic situation prevents that. It all depends on the economy," he said.

Syed Hamid also said Dr Mahathir had briefed the Polish delegation on the Malaysian experience in dealing with the economic crisis and efforts made by the G-15 and G-22 countries.

"He (the president) wants to know the Malaysian experience. The prime minister explains on the currency and capital controls imposed by Malaysia," he said.

At the meeting, Kwasniewski, who is on a four-day state visit to Malaysia, gave a briefing on the Kosovo situation and Dr Mahathir had expressed regret over the stalemate in resolving the conflict, Syed Hamid said.

Syed Hamid said both countries agreed to improve cooperation in the cultural field especially music.

He said the Polish president, who visited Malaysia 11 years ago, was impressed with Malaysia's achievements and had invited Dr Mahathir to visit Poland.

In the morning, the president and his wife, Jolanta Kwasniewski, were given an official reception at Parliamnt House.

The couple was welcomed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah.

-- BERNAMA

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