

11 FEB 2000

Mahathir-Embassy

DR M OPENS NEW EMBASSY COMPLEX

By: Muin Abdul Majid

BANGKOK, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here today to attend the opening of the 10th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Investment (Unctad X) tomorrow.

Soon after arrival, Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali were driven to the Malaysian mission in South Sathorn Road in downtown Bangkok where he officially opened the new embassy complex.

Present at the ceremony were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Ambassador Datuk Syed Ariff Fadzillah and embassy officials.

The brownish grey complex houses, among others, the Chancery building, the ambassador's residence and housing for the staff.

Dr Mahathir will be the first leader to address the Unctad gathering at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre. He is expected to touch on key trade and globalisation issues.

He will be followed by the leaders of Indonesia, Singapore, Japan and the Philippines.

Dr Mahathir will take part in the inaugural high-level talks between Asean and the UN prior to the opening ceremony of Unctad X.

He is also expected to hold talks with key leaders such as Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and UN secretary-general Kofi Annan.

The Feb 12-19 Unctad conference, themed "To Make Globalisation An Effective Instrument For The Development Of All Countries And All People", is being attended by some 3,000 delegates from some 190 countries.

-- BERNAMA

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