17 NOV 2000 Kyrgyz-Agreement M'SIA, KYRGYZ SIGN THREE AGREEMENTS

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and the Kyrgyz Republic today signed three agreements to enhance bilateral ties, namely on avoidance of double-taxation, air transport and cooperration in tourism.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir signed for Malaysia and the Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Muratbek Imanaliev, for his country.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Kyrgyz counterpart Amangeldi Muraliev witnessed the signing at the Prime Minister's Department here.

The Kyrgyz Republic is a Central Asian nation within the Commonwealth of Independent States of the former Soviet Union and has a population of about five million.

Muraliev, who arrived today for a three-day visit, was earlier accorded the customary official welcome, including inspection of a parade mounted by officers and men of the 1st Battalion Royal Malay Regiment.

Later when he called on Dr Mahathir at the Prime Minister's Office here, they discussed strengthening of bilateral ties, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Muraliev, who is accompanied by a 35-member delegation, leaves for Langkawi on Sunday to attend the International Langkawi Dialogue (LID). -- BERNAMA

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