

02 JULY 2000

Singapore-defence

SINGAPORE'S DEFENCE TIES WITH M'SIA, INDON STABLE

SINGAPORE, July 2 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Tony Tan said Singapore's defence ties with neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia remain stable although political and economic ties may fluctuate.

"Defence ties are most stable. They do not, and should not, undergo the same type of ups and downs which we see in political and economic relationships," he told the local media in interviews to mark Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Day yesterday.

Tan said Singapore and Malaysia held joint military exercise under the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) with the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand and that had contributed to regional stability and security.

"Military officers from Malaysia and Singapore also meet each other on a regular basis. Our defence officials are in touch. And we keep up the relationship in that way," said Tan.

He said the SAF had also continued to keep "very good contacts" with the Indonesian Armed Forces with regular meetings of officials and joint exercises.

Meanwhile, FPDA defence ministers would meet here on Tuesday to review the regional security situation and the progress of their joint military exercises over the past three years.

Today, they are in Kuala Lumpur to attend a dinner hosted by Malaysian Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

They would also call on Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Tomorrow, the defence ministers would jointly officiate at the opening of the FPDA exercise codenamed "Flying Fish 2000" at the Tuas Naval Base here.

-- BERNAMA

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