

US Trade Rep Zoellick to visit Malaysia

PETALING JAYA: United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick is visiting Malaysia from Monday, the first American Cabinet-level official to visit Kuala Lumpur since 1998 when bilateral ties soured.

Sources told *The Star* that Zoellick, who will be here as a special envoy to President George W. Bush, would meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

The visit is made amid the attacks on the US and a recent telephone call from Bush to Dr Mahathir.

Following the call, the Prime Minister wrote a letter to Bush where Dr Mahathir conveyed his views on measures to counter terrorism. Zoellick will get a better perspective of the position of the Malaysian Government on terrorism, a source said.