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Cuba-Peace

CUBAN FM DERIDES HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION CONCEPT

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 20 (Bernama) -- Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque today warned that the most serious threat to international peace and security is the much-trumpeted concept of humanitarian intervention.

"The concept is being imposed by powerful countries led by the United States against underdeveloped and developing countries. We oppose that," he said during a lecture on 'Cuba's Role in International Politics' organised by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, here.

He said human rights had become an ideological weapon aimed at imposing a new world order.

Speaking through an interpreter, he also reiterated the need for a reform of the United Nations (UN) as well as the transformation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

"It is imperative to reform the UN and democratise its methods. It must be recognised that the UN now has four times more members than at its inception. We believe that the Security Council should be expanded," he said.

He also said the right of people and countries to engage in development must also be recognised.

Roque described as "very positive" political relations between Havana and Kuala Lumpur while in the economic field, both sides were just "beginning to know each other".

"Our relations can be regarded as highly satisfactory in both fields. At present, there is an ever-increasing interest of Malaysian investors in important sectors of the Cuban economy," he said.

The minister said during the proposed visit by President Fidel Castro to Malaysia sometime this year, the Cuban leader and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad are expected to engage in talks about bilateral and international issues, including globalisation.

He also gave a lengthy background on the effects of the 39-year U.S trade blockade on Cuba.

Roque is on a three-day working visit to Malaysia which started yesterday. He will later visit Singapore, Vietnam, China and Japan during a two-week tour of Asia.

-- BERNAMA

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