

13 MAY 2001

Mahathir-Castro

DR MAHATHIR MAKES FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO

KUALA LUMPUR, May 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made a farewell call on Cuban President Fidel Castro who ends his three-day official visit to Malaysia today.

Dr Mahathir spent about 30 minutes with the 74-year-old leader at the Presidential Suite of the Renaissance Hotel where the Cuban leader was staying before they left together for the Bunga Raya Hall at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang.

Castro arrived here on Thursday for a three-day state visit at the invitation of Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah.

Prior of his visit to Malaysia, Castro visited Algeria and Iran and will leave here for Doha, Qatar.

Last night, Dr Mahathir hosted a private dinner for the Cuban leader at the Prime Minister's official residence, Seri Perdana, in Putrajaya.

During his stay here, Castro held a bilateral meeting with Dr Mahathir, followed by delegation meetings between the two countries.

Malaysia and Cuba also signed an economic, technical and scientific agreement to boost bilateral ties.

Castro also met Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and visited the world's tallest building, the Petronas Twin Towers.

Castro also attended a state banquet hosted by Sultan Salahuddin and Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Siti Aishah.

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