

31 OCT 2001

DR MAHATHIR MAKES FAREWELL CALL ON LAOTIAN PREMIER

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made a farewell call on his Laotian counterpart Bounnhang Vorachith, who ended a three-day visit to Malaysia, at his hotel here today.

Dr Mahathir and wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali spent 15 minutes with Bounnhang and wife Khammeung Vorachit.

The Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and the minister-in-attendance Datuk Peter Chin, who is Housing and Local Government Deputy Minister, were present.

Bounnhang left for Singapore in the afternoon.

He had held talks with Dr Mahathir and was granted an audience with the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin.

When hosting a dinner for the Laotian premier last Monday, Dr Mahathir expressed Malaysia's support for Laos' membership of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Laos and Malaysia are members of the 10-nation regional grouping, Asean.

While here Bounnhang also visited the country's intelligent city Cyberjaya and the national car-maker complex in Shah Alam, among other places.

His deputy Somsavat Lengsavad, who is also the Foreign Minister, and 10 businessmen were in Bounnhang's entourage.

-- BERNAMA

MHI AZZ RYN