

02/03/2001

Offer to share expertise in carrying out development

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Malaysia is willing to share its experiences with Colombia especially in carrying out socio-economic development programmes and implementing agricultural schemes.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad conveyed this to visiting Colombian President Andres Pastrana, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

Dr Mahathir called on Pastrana at his Shangri-la Hotel suite here today where the two leaders met for 45 minutes.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Syed Hamid said Pastrana told Dr Mahathir that Colombia wanted to learn from Malaysia's experiences particularly in the socio-economic field.

"They want to get out of the current position of people planting coca. They want to look at alternative crops, they want to look at oil palm plantation and what type of land schemes that we have in order to eradicate poverty," Syed Hamid said.

He said the Government would look into assisting Colombia and the private sector would be interested in investing in Colombia.

(END)