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Pastrana-Depart

PASTRANA LEAVES FOR INDIA AFTER FOUR-DAY STATE VISIT TO M'SIA

SEPANG, March 4 (Bernama) -- Colombian President Andres Pastrana Arango left for India tonight, ending his four-day state visit to Malaysia.

Pastrana, who was accompanied by his wife Nohra Puyana, and his delegation departed from the KL International Airport here.

Minister-in-attendance Datuk Law Hieng Ding and Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr Leo Michael Toyad were at the airport to see them off.

In the morning, Pastrana visited Felda Semenchu in Kota Tinggi, Johor accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

During his four-day visit, the first by a Colombian head of state since diplomatic relations were established in 1987, Pastrana held discussions with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Putrajaya, the new federal administrative capital.

He also witnessed the signing of agreements aimed at enhancing Kuala Lumpur-Bogota bilateral relations.

He also spoke at a conference jointly organised by the Asian Strategic and Leadership Institute and the Colombian Embassy and visited the Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest building.

Yesterday, Pastrana and his delegation visited an oil palm estate owned by plantations giant -- United Plantations Berhad -- in Teluk Intan, Perak.

Later, he received Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who made a farewell call on him, at his hotel suite.

Pastrana had sought Malaysia's assistance to help Colombia plant oil palm on a large scale in efforts to rid his country from coca, a plant to produce cocaine.

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