

# Malaysia to set up embassy in Ukraine

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is planning to set up an embassy in Ukraine to improve bilateral and trade ties, said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

He said, however, that this could only take place next year as Wisma Putra was currently setting up embassies in Qatar, Bahrain, Switzerland and Syria.

"Ukraine has decided to open an embassy here and they have also asked us to open an embassy in Ukraine. They will have a charge d' affairs," he told reporters after meeting the First Vice-Prime Minister of Ukraine Olea Duhvna at Sheraton Imperial Hotel here yesterday.

He said both countries had also agreed to form a joint commission soon, adding that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would visit Ukraine next year.

Earlier, Duhvna paid a courtesy call on Dr Mahathir in Putrajaya.

He also met Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Shafie Apdal, and proposed the setting up of a joint defence industry co-operation programme.