

Polish FM to meet Dr M

tomorrow

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By PAUL GABRIEL

KUALA LUMPUR: When Polish Foreign Minister Dr Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz calls on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Putrajaya tomorrow, there'll be lots to talk about besides usual government matters.

Both leaders last met here in March 1996, when Dr Cimoszewicz came on a historic trip as the Prime Minister of Poland. It was the first visit to Malaysia by a Polish PM.

A year later, he was ousted as the premier when the Democratic Left Alliance and partners lost in the elections, and retreated to his passion of farming before being appointed Foreign Minister by the leftist Government that won the 2001 polls.

Dr Cimoszewicz was away in Brussels when Dr Mahathir visited Poland in March this year.

Polish Ambassador to Malaysia Marek Paszucha, who received Dr Cimoszewicz here in 1996, is particularly looking forward to his boss's visit.

"Dr Cimoszewicz had a very successful trip here in

1996 and is a much more experienced politician now. Besides his own situation, there have also been many changes in Malaysia, and there'll be lots of catching up to do when he meets with Dr Mahathir," he said in an interview.

Dr Cimoszewicz, who holds a Ph.D in Law, and his wife Barbara, will arrive here from Brunei today for a two-day visit. Singapore was his first South East Asian stopover.

Upon arrival, he will head to Malacca where he will meet Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam and be briefed by state government officials.

Tomorrow morning, Dr

Cimoszewicz will hold discussions with Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Senate president Tan Sri Michael Chen.

His meeting with Dr Mahathir is scheduled after a luncheon hosted by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

Paszucha said Dr Mahathir and Dr Cimoszewicz were expected to discuss a range of international and bilateral issues.

The ambassador said the minister had also expressed a keen desire to meet Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who was Foreign Minister when Dr Cimoszewicz was last here.