

30 JUL 2002

POWELL CALLS ON DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, July 30 (Bernama) -- United States Secretary of State Colin Powell called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office, here, today.

Powell, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur yesterday en route to Bandar Seri Begawan to attend the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), spent about 40 minutes discussing bilateral issues with Dr Mahathir.

Present were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and US ambassador to Malaysia Marie Huhtala.

Powell's eight-day whirlwind tour of Asia beginning last Saturday has taken the former four-star general to nuclear-rivals India and Pakistan, Thailand and Malaysia.

He leaves for Singapore later today and then to Brunei where the US and Asean are expected to adopt an anti-terrorism declaration.

After the ARF meeting, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will depart for Indonesia and the Philippines on the final leg of his diplomatic tour.

-- BERNAMA

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