

25 APR 2002

China-Visit

CHINESE VICE-PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR PENANG

SEPANG, April 25 (Bernama) -- Chinese Vice-President Hu Jintao left for Penang today on the last leg of his four-day official visit to Malaysia.

Hu, who was accompanied by his wife, Liu Yongqing, and a 65-member delegation left on board a special Air China B747-400 aircraft.

The Chinese delegation was sent off at the KL International Airport (KLIA) by Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr Leo Michael Toyad and Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Kerk Choo Ting.

Hu, who arrived here on Tuesday, met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, yesterday for talks on strengthening bilateral ties between Kuala Lumpur and Beijing.

Hu, 58, who is expected to succeed China's President Jiang Ze Min next year, discussed various topics including trade, education, air transportation, the disputed Spratly Islands off South China Sea and international issues.

The delegation will leave for Singapore tomorrow en route to the United States.

In Penang, Hu is scheduled to meet the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas and visit the house of Dr Sun Yat Sen, who is considered as the father of modern China.

He is also scheduld to visit the Khoo Kongsio and Teluk Bahang Dam.

-- BERNAMA

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