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Keep the mafia and syndicates at bay, says Polish minister

PUTRAJAYA, Mon. - Malaysia has been advised to take measures to prevent syndicates with a worldwide network from setting up their base here.

This was voiced out to Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar by Republic of Poland's Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz in a meeting today.

"Cimoszewicz does not want Malaysia to be used by syndicates and mafias who move from one country to another to avoid being arrested," he said after the meeting.

He said they also discussed transnational, transborder and organised crime cooperation.

Syed Hamid said the bilateral relations was cordial but there were many areas that could be enhanced for mutual benefit.

"We discussed research in science and technology. Poland is interested in commercialising their research products."

He said direct trade between the two countries last year was RM368 million.

"We discussed in depth on Malaysia selling palm oil and related products to Poland. If it is interested, further discussion will be held with the Primary Industries Ministry."

Besides Poland's wish to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Defence Ministry on defence cooperation, Syed Hamid said they also talked about Palestine, the Middle East and combating terrorism.

Cimoszewicz, who arrived yesterday for a two-day official visit, left for Warsaw after meeting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Cimoszewicz also met Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Mohd Rustam yesterday, and toured the Declaration of Independence Memorial, Malacca Sultanate Palace and Portuguese Square.