

10 OCT 2002

LEBANON INVITES MALAYSIA TO MEETING ON ITS PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FUND

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- Lebanon has invited Malaysia to attend a meeting which will be held in Paris soon to set up Lebanon's national development fund, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

The Lebanese government also wanted to see Malaysia getting more involved in the development and investment areas of the country, especially in economic and information technology fields, he told reporters after Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri held a brief meeting with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office here.

Hariri, who was making a stopover here en route to Japan, also touched on the West Asia conflict and discussed the Palestine and Iraq issues with his Malaysian counterpart.

Syed Hamid said Hariri also said that Dr Mahathir's leadership was highly respected by the Islamic world.

"As such, he feels that the Prime Minister's decision (to resign after October next year) is saddening and a cause for concern for the Islamic world," he said.

-- BERNAMA

MFJ MFJ SHR YBY