

07 JAN 2002

Hamid-US

M'SIA SAYS TIES WITH U.S. HAVE REACHED NEW HEIGHTS

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 7 (Bernama) -- Malaysia said its relations with the United States have reached new heights with better understanding and closer rapport between the two nations.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the stronger relations had also helped them to exchange views and explain the policies of each other more effectively.

"As a trading nation we need a lot of friends and U.S. is considered one of the important ones," he told reporters after receiving 12 U.S. Congressional staffers at his office today.

The 12 staffers, who arrived here yesterday for a week-long visit, would be holding talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and various organisations in the country to get a better understanding of Malaysia's international policies.

"These meetings and discussions would enable us to give our perspective on issues related to trade and terrorism. We are confident that with the understanding and knowledge about the two countries we could further strengthen our ties," said Syed Hamid.

Malaysia is Washington's 11th largest trading partner while the superpower is Malaysia's largest trading partner. Trade between the two nations is worth around RM20 billion a year.

Syed Hamid said the meeting with the Congressional staffers was cordial.

"They are impressed with our development and our moderate way of running the country. They feel comfortable...we also want them to appreciate what we are doing in helping solve international problems," he said.

The minister said Malaysia and the U.S. had been exchanging visits and holding dialogues and interactive sessions, and this had helped boost bilateral ties.

-- BERNAMA

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