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# Putin cancels trip to Malaysia after Moscow blasts

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has cancelled a trip to Malaysia and two former Soviet states following a double suicide bombing that killed over a dozen people and the bombers, the Kremlin said.

"In connection with the tragic consequences of the terrorist act in Moscow, which took the lives of Russian citizens, the president of the Russian Federation has decided to cancel his planned foreign visit," reported Reuters when quoting a Kremlin statement yesterday.

Putin had been due to fly to Uzbekistan yesterday and visit Malaysia tomorrow where he was to have signed a deal on the supply of fighter aircraft.

Earlier, in **Ipoh**, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the Government hoped to sign an agreement to export palm oil to Russia when Putin visited Malaysia tomorrow.

Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the agreement would enable Russia to buy RM190mil in palm oil from Malaysia under the Palm Oil Credit Payment Arrangement.

"We have already held negotiations with Russia and we hope to finalise the deal during Putin's visit.

"There will also be discussions on the sale of the Russian-made Sukhoi Su/30MKM jets and if they finalise the sale, I believe that one third of the value would come from the contra with palm oil," he said after opening the Perak Gerakan delegates annual general meeting yesterday.

Dr Lim added that a total of US\$10mil (RM38mil) in palm oil under the credit scheme POCPA would be made available to Ukraine when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad visited the country on Thursday.