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M'SIA APPRECIATES PRESIDENT BUSH'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT CALL BY  
ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, July 7 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is grateful to President George W. Bush for his willingness to accept call by Prime Minister Menter Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who will make a two-day working visit to the United States from July 18, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

"This is very important to us as chairman of the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference) and NAM (Non-Aligned Movement)," he said in an interview over TV1 programme, "Bersama Menter" (Together With The Minister) tonight.

He said Abdullah would be visiting the U.S. not only in his capacity as Malaysia's prime minister but also as the leader of OIC and NAM.

Syed Hamid and several senior officials from the Prime Minister's Department and Wisma Putra will accompany Abdullah during the visit at the invitation of Bush.

Abdullah's meeting with Bush will be the first between the two leaders since Abdullah took over as Malaysia's fifth prime minister on Oct 31 last year, succeeding Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Syed Hamid said that during the meeting Malaysia would present its views on current international issues in the hope that it could contribute to global peace and justice.

-- BERNAMA

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