

30 JAN 2004  
Syed Hamid-Myanmar  
MYANMAR WANTS LONGER VISIT BY ABDULLAH

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Myanmar is keen to see that the rescheduled visit by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to Yangon is longer than a day trip, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

Abdullah had to defer the trip, scheduled for yesterday, after catching a cold.

Syed Hamid said he had expressed regret over the postponement to the authorities in Myanmar.

"They understand our position. The only thing that they told me was that they would like to have the visit by the Prime Minister to Myanmar as soon as possible and they also asked whether he could make the visit longer than a day's trip," he told reporters at his office here.

Syed Hamid said the Prime Minister's office had been informed about this development.

Myanmar would have been the final stop of Abdullah's familiarisation tour of Asean capitals after taking over from Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Oct 31 last year.

Turning to Malaysia-Singapore relations, he said an environment of friendliness and goodwill had been created, thanks to the recent reciprocal visits by leaders from both sides of the Causeway.

"There is that feeling of hope that we will be able to resolve the various outstanding bilateral issues," he said.

On the possibility that air marshals be placed on board Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flights to the United States, Syed Hamid said it was up to the Transport Ministry to tackle the issue.

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