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Jack Straw on official visit here tomorrow

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Jack Straw will make a one-day official visit to Malaysia on Friday.

It will be his first visit to Malaysia since becoming Foreign Secretary in June 2001, the British High Commission said in a statement today.

He will meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Straw will also hold discussions with Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar on bilateral and international issues.

British High Commissioner Bruce Cleghorn said: "At a time when the world faces many troubling issues, Straw's visit demonstrates the importance the British Government places on consultation with Malaysia, as both a leading Islamic country and the future Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement and Organisation of Islamic Conference."