

Pak Lah on visit to enhance ties with Russia

The Star - 19/6/2007

MOSCOW: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has arrived here for a three-day visit to Russia, his first since becoming Prime Minister in 2003.

The visit is to strengthen bilateral ties between Malaysia and Russia, which have enjoyed close and friendly ties over the past 40 years.

On hand to receive Abdullah and his wife Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah at the Vnukovo Airport yesterday was Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Saltnov.

Information Minister Datuk Seri Zainuddin Maidin, Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman and 10 Asean ambassadors were also at the airport.

Earlier, Boris Marchuk, Chief-of-Protocol of the Russian Foreign Ministry, and Malaysian Ambassador to Russia Datuk Mohammad Khalis Ali Hassan boarded the



Official visit: Abdullah inspecting the guard of honour upon his arrival at the Vnukovo Airport in Moscow yesterday. — Bernama

private jet to greet and invite Abdullah and Jeanne to alight from the aircraft.

Abdullah was then accompanied

to a special dais to take the salute from a Russian military guard-of-honour followed by the playing of the national anthems of the

two countries.

Russian and Malaysian dignitaries were then introduced to Abdullah. — Bernama