

## KL awaits nod to lift trade sanctions on Pretoria

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Malaysia will lift trade sanctions against South Africa once the Commonwealth decides to do so, Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said today.

He said the Government would wait for the announcement which was expected to be made soon by the Commonwealth secretariat in Britain.

Malaysia, being a member of the Commonwealth, would abide by the decision, he said.

"We believe the secretariat will announce its decision within weeks," Dr Abdullah Fadzil told reporters after opening a workshop on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations.

He said that once the sanctions were lifted, Malaysians could tap business and investment opportunities in South Africa.

He said Malaysia Airlines had established an air service to South Africa to boost ties between the people of the two countries.

"Now we do not have an official trade representative or office there," he said when asked whether the Government would lift economic sanctions against South Africa.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Abdullah Fadzil said Malaysia wanted the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations to conclude successfully as it would boost business and extend the multilateral trading framework.

He said Malaysia's target of RM209.3 billion in manufactured goods exports by 2000, an increase of 224 per cent, would only be achieved if there were open markets.

The successful conclusion of talks would boost world trade by RM500 billion annually and provide a conducive international environment for developing countries to continue with their market and economic liberalisation policies.

"It will check the tendency towards managed trade and protectionism and the prevalence of unilateral trade sanctions by the economically stronger countries," he said.

Dr Abdullah Fadzil said Malaysia supported an open and liberal multilateral trading system and had taken steps to reduce tariff rates which were comparable to many developed countries.

Malaysia offered 2,000 items for tariff cutbacks in the Uruguay Round and it had reduced or abolished import duties on 600 items in the 1993 Budget, he said.

The workshop, attended by about 30 officers from government departments and agencies, is aimed at providing participants with a better understanding of GATT's role and functions in the world economy, problems and issues.