

15 JAN 1996

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER GIVEN RED CARPET WELCOME

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, who arrived here today for a two-day official visit, was accorded an official welcome at Parliament Square, here.

On hand to welcome him was Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Keating then inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 107 officers and men from the first battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment under the command of Major Rafizi Sharif.

The Royal Malaysian Navy brass band played the Australian national anthem and the Negara Ku.

Dr Mahathir then introduced members of the Malaysian Cabinet and foreign dignitaries to Keating.

Keating was accompanied by his wife, Annita, senior government officials and a business group.

The Australian Prime Minister later had an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar at Istana Negeri Sembilan. -- Bernama