

26 MAR 1996

Mahathir-arrival

MAHATHIR FLIES INTO NEW ZEALAND

By: Syed Jamil Jaafar

WELLINGTON, March 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here today for a four-day official visit aimed at enhancing bilateral relations with this South Pacific island nation.

After a ceremonial welcome at Parliament House soon after arrival, Dr Mahathir held four-eyed talks with his New Zealand counterpart James Bolger.

This was followed by a full delegation meeting between the two sides which focussed on increasing trade as well as cooperation in the education field.

Dr Mahathir who was accompanied by Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah and an official delegation which included Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz will spend two days here before going to Auckland, the commercial centre of New Zealand.

In the afternoon, Dr Mahathir is scheduled to call on the new Governor-general Sir Michael Hardie Boys at the Government House. This will be followed by a meeting with the Malaysian community in New Zealand at the Malaysian High Commission.

Malaysia and New Zealand have enjoyed a long and close relationship, both being members of the Commonwealth and partners in the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA). -- Bernama

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