

18 MAR 1996

SINGAPORE DEFENCE MINISTER TO VISIT MALAYSIA

SINGAPORE, March 18 (Bernama) -- Singapore Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Dr Tony Tan will be in Malaysia from tomorrow for a three-day introductory visit.

A Ministry of Defence statement said here today Dr Tan's visit was at the invitation of the Malaysian Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Jaafar Albar.

This will be Dr Tan's second visit to Malaysia since assuming the post of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence in August 1995.

Dr Tan's first visit was in December 1995 when he led a Singapore delegation to the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace 1995 exhibition.

Tomorrow, Dr Tan will call on Syed Hamid at the Ministry of Defence, followed by a meeting of the second Malaysia-Singapore Defence Forum to be co-chaired by the Defence Ministers.

The Forum provides policy guidelines and directives for bilateral defence activities and explores new avenues for defence cooperation.

Dr Tan is also scheduled to call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on March 20.

He will be hosted to a luncheon by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on March 21 before returning to Singapore. -- BERNAMA

THG LDB