

12 MAR 1996

Sweden-arrival

SWEDISH ROYAL COUPLE ARRIVES FOR STATE VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, March 12 (Bernama) -- King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden arrived here today for a five-day state visit.

They were received at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang, near here, by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali.

Present were Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Entrepreneur Development Minister Mustapa Mohamed who is also the minister-in-attendance.

Their Majesties, who flew in from Singapore, were accompanied by their son, Prince Carl Philip.

In the royal entourage were 15 senior officials including Minister of Foreign Trade and European Cooperation Mots Hellstrom and a 20-member business delegation.

King Gustaf and Queen Silvia were whisked away for a state welcome at Parliament square.

At Parliament Square, they were officially welcomed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja'afar, and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah.

The national anthems of the two countries were then played by the Royal Malay Regiment central band led by Lt Norman Kamaruddin.

King Gustaf inspected a guard of honour mounted by four officers and 103 men of the First Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment led by Mej Rafizi Shariff.

State dignitaries, cabinet ministers, senior government officials and the heads of foreign mission were then introduced to the royal couple.

Later, their majesties will call on Tuanku Ja'afar and Tuanku Najihah at Istana Negeri Sembilan, here.

In the afternoon, King Gustaf is scheduled to visit the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz mosque and the national car Proton plant in Shah Alam.

Queen Silvia, who has a separate programme, will visit the Royal Selangor Pewter factory before attending a briefing by Anti-Dadah Task Force senior officials on the prevention of drug abuse.

Tonight, their majesties will attend a state banquet at Parliament House.

Their itinerary here includes visiting the Orchid Garden and the Ericsson Academy and closing the Swedish Health Symposium tomorrow before leaving for Kota Kinabalu on Thursday. -- Bernama

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