

27 FEB 1997

Chavalit-Arrival

CHAVALIT ARRIVES FOR TWO-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 27 (Bernama) -- Thai Prime Minister Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyudh arrived here today for a two-day visit at the invitation of his counterpart, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Chavalit, who is accompanied by his wife, Phankruea, and a 42-member delegation, was met on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang by Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The aircraft carrying the Thai premier and his entourage touched down at 9.45am.

Chavalit's visit is in the context of a familiarisation tour to meet Asean counterparts and is also aimed at boosting the already good ties between Thailand and Malaysia.

Also present at the airport were Abdullah's wife, Datin Endon Mahmood, Thai ambassador to Malaysia Suchitra Hiranprueck, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob who is the minister-in-attendance and other officials.

Chavalit, 64, is making his first official visit to Kuala Lumpur since taking over as Prime Minister from Banharn Silpa-Archa two months ago.

Today, he is scheduled to have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah before calling on Dr Mahathir at his office and attending the delegation meeting.

Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali will host a dinner in honour of the visiting Thai premier at his residence, Sri Perdana, tonight.

Tomorrow, Chavalit is scheduled to attend a talk organised by the New Straits Times Group before leaving for Bangkok in the evening.

Chavalit was a field military officer who later rose to become the Supreme Commander of the Thai defence forces.

His cooperation with his Malaysian counterparts helped bring the disbandments of the Communist Party of Thailand and the Communist Party of Malaya at the end of the 80s. -- BERNAMA

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