

01 APR 1997

Herzog-arrival

GERMAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR FIVE-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 1 (Bernama) -- German President Prof Dr Roman Herzog flew in to a red-carpet welcome when he arrived here today for a five-day state visit.

He was received at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport by Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding who is minister-in-attendance.

The German leader was then whisked away to Parliament Square for the official welcoming ceremony.

Herzog, 63, is accompanied by a 100-member delegation including former soccer maestro, Franz Beckenbauer, for his first official visit here.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah host a state banquet in Herzog's honour at Istana Negara tonight.

Tuanku Ja'afar and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad were at Parliament Square to receive Herzog.

The German leader was accorded a 21-gun salute and inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by officers and men of the 1st Battalion Royal Malay Regiment.

Herzog was later introduced to Malaysian Cabinet ministers and members of the diplomatic corp.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to call on Herzog tomorrow afternoon.

In the morning, Herzog is scheduled to attend a coaching session of the Malaysian youth soccer team by Beckenbauer, who is now Bayern Munich FC president, at the Police Training Centre in Jalan Semarak.

Herzog wraps up his state visit with a trip to Sarawak.

Germany is Malaysia's leading European trade partner after Britain. Malaysia, in turn, is Germany's third largest Asean trade partner after Singapore and Thailand.

Trade between the two countries had increased from DM2.25 billion (RM3.33 billion) in 1987 to DM8.6 billion (RM12.728 billion) in 1995 in Malaysia's favour.

Malaysia is also an increasingly popular destination for German tourists whose arrival have more than doubled from 28,000 in 1987 to over 80,000 in 1995. -- BERNAMA

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