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MAHATHIR HOSTS DINNER FOR FRENCH PRESIDENT

LANGKAWI, Nov 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight hosted a dinner for visiting French President Jacques Chirac at a hotel here.

Chirac arrived here this evening from Hanoi for two-day working visit.

Mahathir and Chirac had a 20-minute meeting before the dinner.

Present at the dinner were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Economic Adviser to the Government Tun Daim Zainuddin, Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid and French Ambassador to Malaysia Eduoard Braine. Petronas President Tan Sri Hassan Marican was also among the guests.

Mahathir and Chirac will hold further talks tomorrow morning during which currency trading regulations and the United States probe into Malaysian and French involvement in a gas deal in Iran are expected to come up. -- BERNAMA

MAM ARA AAM