

22 JUL 1997

MAHATHIR RETURNS AFTER TWO MONTHS' WORKING HOLIDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, July 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad returned home today after a two-month-long "working holiday" abroad.

He arrived at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang at about 5.45pm from Tokyo after a seven-day holiday-cum-working visit to Japan.

He had earlier visited several countries in Europe and West Asia, among others.

The Prime Minister, who was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, was met at the airport by his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar was acting Prime Minister during Dr Mahathir's leave beginning May 19.

Dr Mahathir had told Malaysian journalists earlier in Okayama, Japan that he would resume work tomorrow.

The airport's VIP room was packed with ministers, deputy ministers, senior government officials, foreign dignitaries and corporate figures eager to meet the Prime Minister. -- BERNAMA

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