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LEAD Monaco-Arrival (With pix)

PRINCE ALBERT OF MONACO ARRIVES FOR A FIVE-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 5 (Bernama) -- Crown Prince Albert of Monaco arrived here today for a five-day official visit to establish direct links between businessmen from Malaysia and the principality.

"We would like to establish a more frequent direct links between businessmen from both countries as we know Monaco is not very well-known in Southeast Asia," he told Bernama on his arrival at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang near here.

He was earlier received by the head of the European Desk in the Foreign Ministry, M.Santhananaban.

Prince Albert also said that Monaco was willing to part its experience and knowledge especially in the tourism industry.

According to him, Monaco has vast experience and expertise in handling millions of tourists each year.

Monaco, said Prince Albert, received three million tourists last year and the number was expected to grow to four million this year.

Asked if Monaco would set up its mission here to further enhance relations between both countries, Prince Albert said the Monaco authorities were studying the matter and would decide on it.

While here, Prince Albert is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He will also have an audience with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar at Istana Negara.

Monaco is a principality situated on the Mediterranean coast, south of France and close to Italy, ruled by Prince Rainier III of the Grimaldi royal family. -- BERNAMA

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