

22 JUL 1998

Downer

DOWNER ARRIVES FOR THREE-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, July 22 (Bernama) -- Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer arrived today for a three-day official visit to Malaysia.

He was received at the KL International Airport at Sepang by Foreign Ministry deputy chief of protocol Yahya Jabar and the Australian High Commissioner here Bob Cotton.

Downer's visit is at the invitation of his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

This is his fourth visit to the country since being appointed foreign minister in early 1996.

Abdullah will host a private dinner for Downer at a hotel here tonight.

Downer, who is also the Trade Minister, is being accompanied by advisers and senior officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Apart from identifying new avenues for cooperation, Downer and Abdullah are also expected to exchange views on regional and international issues.

Downer is scheduled to meet Special Functions Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin tomorrow morning and call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad later.

This will be followed by talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Downer leaves for Manila on Friday to attend the Asean Ministerial Meeting and Post Ministerial Conferences.

-- BERNAMA

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