

11 FEB 1998

Yemen-welcome

KING WELCOMES YEMENI PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- An official welcoming ceremony was held at Parliament Square here today for Yemen's President Lt-Jen Ali Abdallah Saleh, who is on a four-day state visit.

President Ali was received by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah.

He inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 107 officers and men of the 1st Battalion, Royal Malay Regiment under Major Roomai Noor Mohamed and was later introduced to Cabinet members and foreign dignitaries.

President Ali is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's office later today and witness the signing of several bilateral agreements.

Tonight, Tuanku Ja'afar will host a state banquet for the Yemeni president at Istana Negara.

Earlier, President Ali, who assumed office in May 1990, was met on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman is minister-in-attendance.

President Ali's 69-member entourage include chairman of Yemen's Consultative Council AbdulAziz AbdulGhani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdulkarim al-Iryani and Minister of Planning and Chairman of the Free Zone's Area Abdulkader Bajamal.

The Republic of Yemen is situated in the south-western corner of the Arabian Peninsula bordering Saudi Arabia to the north, the Red Sea to the west, Oman to the East and the Arabian Sea to the south.

Yemen is the only multi-party democracy in the Arabian Peninsula.--

BERNAMA

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