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Colombia-Arrival

COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR FOUR-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- Colombian President Andres Pastrana Arango, who arrived today for a four-day visit, was given a full ceremonial welcome at the Parliament Square here.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah welcomed him on arrival at the Parliament Square.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and cabinet ministers were present.

The Colombian President also inspected a guard of honour mounted by four officers and 103 men of the 1st Battalion Royal Malay Regiment, under the command of Mej Hamdan Musa.

Pastrana was then introduced to a line of cabinet ministers and diplomats.

Pastrana is scheduled among others to hold talks with Dr Mahathir during the visit, the first ever by a Colombian President to Malaysia to strengthen bilateral ties and cooperation in various fields.

Their discussions are expected to centre on oil palm industry, information technology and joint venture programmes, Colombian ambassador to Malaysia, Arturo Infante Villarreal told BERNAMA in an interview yesterday.

Infante said the president would be accompanied by a 60-member delegation comprising several ministers, senior government officials and representatives from the private sector.

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