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Red-carpet welcome for Pastrana

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Colombian President Andres Pastrana who arrived today for a four-day official visit was accorded a red-carpet welcome at Parliament Square here.

Pastrana and his wife, Nohra Puyana De Pastrana, were welcomed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah upon arrival at Parliament Square.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Ministers and members of the diplomatic corps were present.

Pastrana was given a 21-gun salute as the Royal Armour Band played the national anthems of the two countries.

Pastrana then inspected a guard of honour mounted by four officers and 103 men of the 1st Battalion Royal Malay Regiment, under the command of Mejar Hamdan Musa.

Accompanied by the King, Pastrana was then introduced to Ministers and members of the diplomatic corps.

Pastrana is leading a 62-member delegation which includes several Colombian Ministers.

Pastrana is the first Colombian Head of State to visit Malaysia and he hopes to persuade Malaysian investors and oil palm growers to invest in Colombia and to learn from Malaysia ways to fight insurgency.