

30 SEP 2002  
Ireland-Welcome  
CEREMONIAL WELCOME FOR VISITING IRISH PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 30 (Bernama) -- President Mary McAleese of Ireland who arrived here yesterday for a three-day official visit to the country was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Parliament Square here today.

She was greeted on arrival by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The national anthems of both countries were played by the band from the Royal Armoury Corps before President McAleese inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 108 officers and men from the First Battalion Royal Malay Regiment led by Mej Abu Samah Mad Noh.

A 21 gun salute was then fired.

Later, cabinet ministers and heads of foreign mission here were introduced to the visiting president.

President McAleese, accompanied by her husband, Dr Martin McAleese, is leading a 55-member delegation that includes Science and Education Minister Noel Dempsey, government officials and businessmen.

During her three-day visit, she is scheduled to visit the Petronas Twin Towers and give a talk on "Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century: Ireland's Perspective" organised by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations.

McAleese's visit is aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between Ireland and Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA  
YBK RZS RM