

14 JUN 2002

DR MAHATHIR RETURNS FROM EUROPE

SUBANG, June 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived home today after a weeklong visit to Vatican City, Switzerland and Luxembourg.

Accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, he arrived at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) station, here, on board an executive jet at 8.50am.

Present to receive him were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Land and Cooperative Development Minister Tan Sri Kasitah Gaddam, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and several deputy ministers.

During his visit, Dr Mahathir met Pope John Paul II in Vatican City at the invitation of the supreme leader of the Catholic Church on June 7 before leaving for Switzerland on June 9 for a three-day official visit.

In Switzerland, he visited the Sauber Petronas centre in Hinwill and addressed the 90th session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva.

Dr Mahathir ended his visit in Luxembourg where he met that country's leaders.

-- BERNAMA

AT ZS JK