

07 MAY 2002

Lebanon-Arrival

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES TONIGHT FOR THREE-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 7 (Bernama) -- Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri arrives here tonight for a three-day visit aimed at strengthening ties between the two countries.

He will be accompanied by Lebanese Finance Minister, Public Works and Transport Minister, Central Bank Governor and several businessmen, according to a Wisma Putra statement today.

It said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will host a lunch for Hariri at Seri Perdana tomorrow.

This will be followed by a call on Dr Mahathir.

The statement said that Hariri is expected to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern with Dr Mahathir.

In an e-mail reply to Bernama yesterday, Hariri said that he would discuss with Dr Mahathir the situation in West Asia apart from ways to strengthen bilateral relations.

"I will discuss with the Prime Minister the situation in the Middle East and the future of peace in the region because this is a subject he cares about a lot as a man of peace, as a Muslim leader, and as a friend of the Arab world who has always supported the just cause of the Palestinian people and the rights of the Arabs," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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