

03 JUN 2003

Mahathir-Arrival

DR M ARRIVES FOR THREE-DAY VISIT TO JAPAN

By: Salbiah Said

TOKYO, June 3 (Bernama) -- Fresh from the Enlarged Group of Eight (G8) summit in the French alpine town of Evian, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad flew in today for a three-day visit to Japan.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, arrived at the Narita International Airport at 7.40am local time (6.40am Malaysian time) from Frankfurt.

On hand to receive Dr Mahathir at the airport were Malaysian ambassador to Japan Datuk Marzuki Mohamed Noor and embassy officials.

He is scheduled to arrive at the Imperial Hotel where he will be staying, at 9.50am local time (8.50am Malaysian time).

At the Imperial Hotel, which boasts of countless numbers of statesmen to royalty and fabled celebrities, Dr Mahathir, already in the league of the world's greatest leaders of all times, is scheduled to meet former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

After the 30-minute meeting, Dr Siti Hasmah will join Dr Mahathir for lunch hosted by Nakasone, who is also chairman of Japan's think-tank, Institute for International Policy Studies (IIPS).

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to address the 15th anniversary symposium organised by the IIPS on 'The Asian Dimension under the New World Order: Evolving Paradigms in Asia and Japan' at 2pm local time (1pm Malaysian time) at Hotel Okura.

-- BERNAMA

SS MUN RM