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DR MAHATHIR HOLDS TALK WITH SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT MBEKI

By: Yong Soo Heong

LAUSANNE, May 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today held bilateral talks with South African President Thabo Mbeki ahead of the Enlarged Group of Eight (G8) Summit to be held in Evian, France on Sunday.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar was also present at the meeting.

Dr Mahathir and Mbeki were invited by French President Jacques Chirac to attend the meeting of the Group of Eight leading industrialised countries.

Dr Mahathir wound-up the first day of his working visit here by attending a dinner hosted by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Pascal Couchepin.

On Sunday, the Prime Minister will also have bilateral talks with Chirac and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

On Monday, Dr Mahathir will hold a meeting here with China's President Hu Jiantao.

-- BERNAMA

SHY RV AO