

10 JUL 2003

Mahathir-Ukraine

DR M LEAVES FOR LONDON EN ROUTE TO UKRAINE

KUALA LUMPUR, July 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for London tonight en route to Ukraine for a four-day official visit beginning Sunday.

Dr Mahathir took off on a government jet from the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Subang at about 11pm.

On hand to see him off were Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk M. Kayveas and Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Ali Rustam.

Dr Mahathir will be joined by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali in London.

On the first day of his visit to the former Soviet bloc nation, Dr Mahathir will hold talks with Ukraine President Leonid D. Kuchma, Prime Minister Victor Yanukovych and Volodymyr Lytvyn, Ukraine's Speaker of Parliament.

He will cap the day with a dinner hosted by Kuchma and wife Lyudmyla Kuchma.

On the second day, Dr Mahathir will proceed to the Odessa Port, where he is expected to witness a joint venture agreement signing. He will also tour the palm oil storage facilities at the port.

In the later part of the day, Dr Mahathir is scheduled to meet Malaysian students in Ukraine.

On the final day of his visit, Dr Mahathir will visit the Livadia Palace and test drive naval crafts before leaving for home in the afternoon.

-- BERNAMA

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