

29 MAY 2003

FRENCH DEFENCE MINISTER CALLS ON MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, May 29 (Bernama) -- French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie called on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Office here today.

The hour-long meeting was held soon after her arrival at the KL International Airport in Sepang for a two-day visit to Malaysia.

It was not immediately known what transpired during the talks but Alliot-Marie is scheduled to hold a media conference later today.

After the Putrajaya meeting, she left for the Defence Ministry in Jalan Padang Tembak in Kuala Lumpur for discussions with her Malaysian counterpart, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to attend the Broader Informal Dialogue of the Group of Eight Summit in Evian, France, in the next few days.

Just like Malaysia, France has been one of the countries which opposed the United States-led invasion of Iraq.

The French minister is expected to depart for Singapore tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

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