

13 MAY 2003

Schroeder-Departure

GERMAN CHANCELLOR LEAVES FOR S'PORE

SEPANG, May 13 (Bernama) -- German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder left here today for Singapore after a three-day official visit.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar was at the KL International Airport (KLIA) to bid farewell to him and his 17-member delegation.

Schroeder arrived here on Sunday and had a four-eye discussion with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad before holding a delegation meeting with Malaysian government officials yesterday.

Dr Mahathir and Schroeder, the first German chancellor to visit Malaysia, had a lengthy discussion on the international political situation.

He also delivered a public talk and met Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Schroeder also attended a dinner hosted by Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, at the Seri Perdana complex in Putrajaya last night.

Schroeder's visit is expected to boost bilateral and economic ties between the two nations.

Schroeder is on a tour of four South-East Asian nations, with Malaysia as his first stop.

He will spend six hours in Singapore before departing for Indonesia and subsequently Vietnam.

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