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PUTIN, SCHROEDER TO VISIT MALAYSIA

KOTA BAHARU, April 22 (Bernama) -- Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder will visit Malaysia to reciprocate the visit by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Russia and Germany last year, said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

He said that preparations were being made for the visit of the two leaders.

"They've informed us when they wish to visit Malaysia and we're making the arrangements," he told reporters here last night.

Earlier, he attended a humanitarian rally to protest against the invasion of Iraq organised by the Kelantan People's Action Council (MTRK).

Syed Hamid however said that he could not yet announce the dates of the visit of the two leaders.

The minister said that there would not be any specific agenda at the meeting of leaders during their visit.

"I'd think there'll not be anything specific but...Dr Mahathir's views on current issues. And such visits will enable them to discuss not only bilateral relations, trade and investment but the latest political developments to enhance better understanding among countries with excellent relations," he said.

At the function, Syed Hamid received RM27,000 collected by the MTRK from the people of Kelantan to assist the Iraqis.

Also present were Kelantan Umno liaison chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed and MTRK president Datuk Paduka Ibrahim Ali.

-- BERNAMA

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