

12 MAY 2003

Schroeder-Welcome

SCHROEDER GIVEN OFFICIAL WELCOME AT DATARAN PERDANA

PUTRAJAYA, May 12 (Bernama) -- German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder was today given the official welcome at the Dataran Perdana at the Prime Minister's office here.

Accompanied by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he inspected a guard of honour mounted by officers and men of the Royal Malay Regiment after the national anthems of both nations were played.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, other Cabinet ministers, diplomats and senior government officials.

Schroeder, who is leading a 17-member delegation, arrived here yesterday for a three-day visit, the first leg of his four-nation tour of Southeast Asian country.

He is the first German Chancellor to visit Malaysia.

After the official welcoming ceremony, Schroeder had a brief meeting with Dr Mahathir before proceeding to a delegation meeting at the Prime Minister's office.

Schroeder's entourage includes Economics and Labour Minister Wolfgang Clement and German Industry Committee for Asia Pacific Chairman Heirich Von Pierer.

Schroeder will also receive a courtesy a call from Abdullah at the Shangri-la Hotel this evening.

-- BERNAMA

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