

11 MAY 2003

Chancellor-Visit

SCHROEDER HAPPY TO BE IN MALAYSIA

SEPANG, May 11 (Bernama) -- German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder is happy to be making his official visit to Malaysia before Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed steps down as Prime Minister.

"Just now he mentioned to me that he is very glad that he got this opportunity to come to Malaysia because he knows this is Dr Mahathir's final year (as prime minister)," Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar told reporters.

He earlier received the German Chancellor at the KL International Airport and then accompanied the Chancellor to his hotel in the city. The German Chancellor will be accorded an official welcome at the Federal Administrative Capital of Putrajaya tomorrow.

Syed Hamid said Schroeder was happy with Dr Mahathir's recent visit to Germany and was confident that this return visit would further enhance relations between Malaysia and Germany.

He said Schroeder was happy with all the programmes that had been organised as it would give him and his delegation opportunities to have discussions with Malaysian ministers, as well as, see German funded projects in this country.

The German Chancellor is in Malaysia, on the first leg of his four-nation Southeast Asian tour.

Schroeder, who is leading a 17-member delegation, is the first German Chancellor to visit Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

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