

11 MAY 2003

Schroeder-Arrival

SCHROEDER ARRIVES FOR THREE-DAY VISIT

SEPANG, May 11 (Bernama) -- German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder arrived here today to begin a three-day visit, 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.

He was greeted on arrival at the Bunga Raya VVIP Complex of the KL International Airport by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar. Also present were 50 students of the Kuala Lumpur German School.

The six-day tour will also take him to Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Schroeder will attend an official welcoming ceremony at Dataran Perdana in Putrajaya before meeting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, followed by a delegation meeting.

The Chancellor's entourage comprises German Economics and Labour Minister Wolfgang Clement and German Industry Committee for Asia-Pacific Chairman Heinrich von Pierer.

Schroeder will also receive a courtesy call from Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at the Shangri-la Hotel.

He will also open the Siemens Regional Hub at the Petronas Twin Towers.

In the afternoon, Schroeder will have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail at Istana Negara.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali will host a banquet in honour of Schroeder at the Seri Perdana Complex in Putrajaya tomorrow night.

-- BERNAMA

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