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HEADLINE: SCHAEFER PLANS 2 TRADE MISSIONS IN FINAL MONTHS

BODY:

Gov. William Donald Schaefer plans to squeeze in two trade missions before he leaves office in seven months.

His travel plans include a trip to Europe and the Far East, and possibly a second trip to South America or Africa, one state official said.

Next month, Mr. Schaefer will call on companies in France, Germany and the United Kingdom that have investments in Maryland while he's in Europe to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day, according to The Washington Post.

Late in October, while the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra is on a tour of the Pacific Rim, Mr. Schaefer will travel to Japan, Taiwan and Korea in hopes of drumming up business for the Port of Baltimore.

The scheduled trips are Mr. Schaefer's 15th and 16th outside the United States since he took office in 1987.

His European mission is expected to cost taxpayers \$ 50,000.

Not counting the three trade missions during his first two years in office for which cost figures are not available, Mr. Schaefer's travels have cost nearly \$ 900,000.

Critics have accused the governor of taking jaunts at taxpayer expense. But administration officials say the trade missions are an important part in Maryland's efforts to attract foreign investment and trade.

"A call from a governor carries with it an impact that adds real substance to what I and others as still making foreign forays as his term as Virginia governor ran out in January.

However, critics say the trade missions do too little to attract foreign businesses to Maryland.

"From the Schaefer trade missions abroad, there's been very little documentation that indicates in reality they generated a lot of business," said state House Minority Leader Ellen R. Sauerbrey, a Republican candidate for governor.

Prince George's County Executive Parris N. Glendening, a Democratic candidate for governor, said he sees a

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legitimate role for the governor to be a salesman for the state. But he said there should be some accountability in a reasonable amount of time.

"In all candor, I would be hardpressed to say what the results of a lot of those high-visibility trips were in the last eight years," Mr. Glendening said.

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