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The Washington Times

September 23, 1993, Thursday, Final Edition

SECTION: Part C; METROPOLITAN TIMES; MARYLAND NEWS; Pg. C8

LENGTH: 343 words

HEADLINE: Schaefer set for 14th trip abroad as governor

BYLINE: Todd Spangler; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

DATELINE: ANNAPOLIS

BODY:

ANNAPOLIS - Maryland Gov. William Donald Schaefer is preparing for his 14th overseas trip since taking office, accepting an invitation with Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder and eight other governors to visit Germany next week.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl extended the invitation in an attempt to strengthen U.S. relations and business ties.

"We have been invited by Chancellor Kohl to meet with government leaders in various parts of Germany to exchange views on a range of subjects including education . . . and economic, cultural and social issues facing German unification efforts," Mr. Schaefer said in a prepared release.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Schaefer said the German government is sponsoring the trip and the state will not pay for the governor's travel expenses. Mr. Schaefer is scheduled to leave Monday from Baltimore-Washington International Airport and return the following Saturday.

Mr. Schaefer will be accompanied by a state policeman, whose costs will be paid by the state and will be joined in Germany by the director of the state's European economic development office.

All of the governor's previous overseas trips were made at the expense of Maryland's taxpayers, as a means of drumming up business for state corporations.

Mr. Schaefer, who has made 13 international trade missions since taking office in Jan. 1987, expects to travel to Bonn, Weimar and Berlin.

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During the week, the governors will meet with Mr. Kohl, German President Richard von Weiszaecker and national, state and local leaders.

The trip will be Mr. Schaefer's third international excursion this year. He visited Europe in June and went to Mexico in July.

The other governors expected on the trip are Georgia's Zell Miller, Hawaii's John Waihee, Illinois' Jim Edgar, Iowa's Terry Branstad, North Carolina's Jim Hunt, South Carolina's Carroll Campbell, Tennessee's Ned McWherter and Wisconsin's Tommy Thompson.

* This article is based in part on wire service reports.

LOAD-DATE: September 23, 1993