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KOTA KINABALU, JULY 7 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SAID DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND AUSTRALIA WILL NOT BE AFFECTED FOLLOWING THE HANGING OF THE TWO AUSTRALIAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

+I DON'T THINK SO,+ HE SAID WHEN ASKED BY REPORTERS MINUTES AFTER ARRIVING AT THE KOTA KINABALU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT TO SABAH.

HOWEVER, BEFORE REPORTERS COULD ASK HIM ABOUT THE SAFETY OF MALAYSIAN STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA, THEY WERE OBSTRUCTED BY SECURITY OFFICERS.

BRIAN GEOFFREY CHAMBERS AND KEVIN JOHN BARLOW WERE HANGED AT THE PUDU PRISON IN KUALA LUMPUR AT DAWN TODAY.

THEY WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH BY THE PULAU PINANG HIGH COURT ON AUG 1 LAST YEAR AND THEIR APPEAL TO THE SUPREME COURT WAS REJECTED ON DEC 8 LAST YEAR. -- BERNAMA

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