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Mahathir-Soviet

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed confidence that President Mikhail Gorbachev can lead the Soviet Union to a brighter and more prosperous future despite the enormous challenges that lie ahead.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir noted that the international policies pursued by President Gorbachev had helped usher in a new era of international peace and co-operation. Wisma Putra said in a statement today.

The statement said Soviet Ambassador to Malaysia, A.I. Khmel'nitski, had earlier called on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir at his office to brief him on the latest situation in the Soviet Union.

The Prime Minister handed over to the ambassador a letter addressed to President Gorbachev expressing delight that he is safe and has resumed duties, the statement said.

On behalf of the people of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir wished the President and Soviet people success, stability and progress. -- Bernama