

25 JAN 1996

KING SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO AUSTRALIA'S GOVERNOR-GENERAL

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 25 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar today congratulated Australia's Governor-General Bill Hayden on the occasion of the country's Australia Day.

"May the existing friendship and cooperation between our two countries continue to be enhanced in the years ahead," he said in his congratulatory message released by Wisma Putra here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in a similar message to his counterpart Paul Keating, said the Australian Premier's recent visit to Malaysia had consolidated close ties between both countries.

"I'm confident Australia will continue to achieve remarkable economic growth and greater prosperity for the coming year," he said.

Acting Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar in his message to Australia's Foreign Minister Senator Gareth Evans expressed hope that the cordial ties of friendship and cooperation enjoyed by both countries would continue to be strengthened in the coming years. --BERNAMA