

05 DEC 1997

AGONG SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO FINLAND

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Jaafar has sent a congratulatory message to President Matti Ahtisaari of Finland on the occasion of the country's National Day.

In his message released by the Foreign Ministry, the King expressed his best wishes for Ahtisaari's good health and continued peace and prosperity of the people of Finland.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in a similar message to his counterpart Paavo Lipponen, said he look forward to further enhance bilateral relations.

"There is scope for further expansion of the ties between Malaysia and Finland, particularly in the areas of trade and investment," he said.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in a message to his counterpart Tarja Halonen, said he was confident that the strong ties of friendship and understanding between the two nations and peoples would continue to be consolidated in the future. -- BERNAMA

RA SK