

04 DEC 1997

AGONG SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO KING BHUMIBOL

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 4 (Bernama) -- The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah have sent a congratulatory message to King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit on the occasion of Thailand's National Day.

They expressed their confidence that the close and friendly ties between Malaysia and Thailand would be further enhanced in the two countries' endeavour for prosperity, peace and stability.

Their Majesties also took the opportunity to congratulate King Bhumibol on his birthday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in his message to Thai Premier Chuan Leekpai, said that Malaysia valued its friendship with Thailand and hoped they could continue to cooperate closely on bilateral and Asean matters.

"I am confident that with you at the helm, the close and friendly relations between Malaysia and Thailand will be further strengthened for the mutual benefit of our countries and people," he said.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi also sent a similar message to his counterpart Surin Pitsuwan. -- BERNAMA

MAM TS