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Dr M: China will maintain its policies

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he did not expect any substantial change in the economic and foreign policies of China with the death of the country's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping.

He said China's future should be as good, if not better, than it was now and added that any changes effected by the new leadership would only be in style and form.

Speaking to reporters after conveying his condolences to the late Chinese leader at the Chinese Embassy here, Dr Mahathir described Deng as a great leader of China.

"His ideas and leadership are acknowledged by the people."

When asked whether he felt that the economic reforms brought about by Deng would continue, Dr Mahathir said: "I think so."

On China-Malaysia ties, Dr Mahathir said relationship between the two countries would continue to be good and added that contacts and friendship had been established with the present leadership.

He was received at the embassy by its Charge de Affairs Zhang Tiegen.

Dr Mahathir had earlier signed the condolences book in which he wrote: "My condolences on the demise of a truly great man and a great leader of China and this world".

Earlier, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu led the party's central working committee to the embassy to pay their last respects by signing the condolences book.

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