

25 JAN 1997

KING, QUEEN SEND GREETINGS TO AUSTRALIA AND INDIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 25 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah have sent congratulatory messages to Australian Governor-General Sir William Deane and Indian President Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma on the occasion of the national day of the two countries tomorrow.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad sent similar greetings to Australian Prime Minister John Howard and Indian premier H.D. Deve Gowda, according to a statement by Wisma Putra.

In his message to Howard, Dr Mahathir said he looked forward to working closely together to further enhance and strengthen the relations between Malaysia and Australia.

To Deve Gowda, he said he hoped the close rapport established between the private sector of their countries would lead to successful ventures.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi also extended greetings to his counterparts, Alexander Downer of Australia and Inder Kumar Gujral of India. -- BERNAMA

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