

09 AUG 1997

KING CONGRATULATES ECUADOR PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja'afar, and the Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Najihah, today congratulated President Fabian Alarcon Rivera of Ecuador on the occasion of the 167th anniversary of its independence.

In a similar message to Rivera, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he was pleased to note that bilateral relations between the two countries had been making steady progress and was confident that these relations could be further strengthened in the future.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in his message to his counterpart, Dr Jose Ayala Lasso, said the cordial bilateral relations between the two countries should be further enhanced through greater interactions among the various sectors of their populations.

"Exchanges of this nature would, I am sure, help to strengthen and reinforce our bilateral ties," he said in the message released by Wisma Putra. -- BERNAMA

HAK JK