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Mahathir-Condolence

PM SIGNS CONDOLENCE BOOK

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident that the cordial relations between Malaysia and China will be maintained following the death of Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping.

He said that Deng had placed China in a "great position" and the new leader, Jiang Zemin, would definitely remember Deng's style and teachings.

Speaking to reporters after signing the condolence book in conjunction with Deng's death, at the Chinese embassy in Jalan Ampang here, he said Malaysia would not have any problems with the new leadership because of the good rapport between the governments of both countries.

Asked whether there will be any changes in economic activities between Malaysia and China, Dr Mahathir said it would "not be obvious but substantive".

"With the good relationship with Jiang, I don't think he will forget Malaysia," he said.

Dr Mahathir was received on arrival at the Chinese mission by its charge d'affaires, Zhang Tiegen.

Earlier, MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu led a delegation of MIC supreme council members to sign the condolence book at the embassy.

Deng died on Wednesday at the age of 92. He was cremated yesterday and the funeral ceremony was held today at the Chinese Great Wall after which his ashes were thrown into the sea. -- BERNAMA

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