

13 JUL 1998

AGONG, MAHATHIR CONGRATULATE FRANCE ON NATIONAL DAY

KUALA LUMPUR, July 13 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah have congratulated President Jacques Chirac on the occasion of France's National Day today.

"We also wish to extend our sincere good wishes for your good health and happiness," their majesties noted in their congratulatory message, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in a similar message to his French counterpart Lionel Jospin, said he was pleased with the growing cooperative relations between Malaysia and France.

"It is particularly noteworthy that the close relationship is increasingly being driven by the excellent cooperation at both the public and private sector levels."

"I hope to work together with you to further strengthen the close and cordial ties between Malaysia and the Republic of France," said Dr Mahathir.

In a similar message to his French counterpart Hubert Vedrine, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the excellent relations and cooperation between the two countries continued to show much positive dynamism and vibrance.

-- BERNAMA

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