

31/01/1998

Keeping open house tradition alive

A MESSAGE OF HOPE ... Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim greeting Vatican Ambassador Monsignor Luigi Bressan at his Hari Raya open house at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday.

Bressan, who is based in Bangkok, is here on a five-day visit to convey a message of "faith and hope" from the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue, to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Anwar and all Malaysians.

Bressan, who is also the Apostolic delegate to Malaysia, said hope enabled people to perceive the good that exists in the world.

"It is the fruit and mark of divine action in human hearts. There are numerous signs of hope, the growing solidarity among people in our time, especially with the poor and destitute, the desire for justice and peace, voluntary service, and others.

"People of faith and hope are those who do not close their eyes to reality with all its positive and negative aspects."

Bressan has visited several open houses in Malaysia in the past 12 years.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for me. It is difficult to find this spirit elsewhere ... it is unique to Malaysia.

"Faith should not be used by people to isolate themselves."

(END)