

25 JAN 1998

Agong-Message

AGONG SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES TO AUSTRALIA AND NAURU

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 25 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah have congratulated Australian Governor-General Sir Patrick William Deane on the occasion of Australia Day tomorrow (Monday).

In a congratulatory message, their majesties expressed their best wishes to Sir Patrick and hoped the existing ties between the two countries would continue to flourish in the coming years.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in his message to Australian counterpart John Howard, said he was confident that friendly relations between Malaysia and Australia would develop further in the years ahead.

Dr Mahathir said he was looking forward to Howard's forthcoming visit to Malaysia which would be an opportunity to review and expand bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi sent a similar message to his counterpart Alexander Downer.

Tuanku Ja'afar and Tuanku Najihah have also sent a congratulatory message to the President of Nauru, Kinza Clodumar, on the occasion of the country's Independence Day on Jan 31.

Their Majesties hoped that the existing ties between the peoples of both countries would continue to prosper in the coming years.

Dr Mahathir, in his message to Clodumar, said he hoped ties between the two nations would continue to be enhanced in the years ahead. -- BERNAMA

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