

25 JAN 1999

Agong-Message

AGONG SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 25 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Ja'afar, and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah have sent congratulatory messages to Australian Governor-General Sir Patrick William Deane and Indian President K.R. Narayanan on the occasion of their national day tomorrow.

According to a Wisma Putra statement here today, the royal couple, in their message to Sir Patrick, said they were pleased to learn that the cooperation between Malaysia and Australia had continued to expand over the years in all fields of cooperation.

To President Narayanan, they expressed their confidence that the traditionally close and friendly ties enjoyed by Malaysia and India would continue to flourish.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in a message to his Australian counterpart, John Howard, said he hoped that the coming years would bring further progress and prosperity to the Australian people.

Dr Mahathir said he welcomed the opportunity to work with Howard to further enhance and strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries.

In his message to Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, Dr Mahathir said he was pleased that the close relations between both countries had expanded into new areas of cooperation both at the government and private sector levels in recent years.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar sent similar messages to Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer and Indian Minister of External Affairs Jaswant Singh.

--BERNAMA

NZ JK