

03 JAN 1999

GREETINGS FOR MYANMAR'S INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 3 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar has sent a congratulatory message to Myanmar's Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on his country's 51st Independence Day tomorrow.

His Majesty wished General Than Shwe continued good health and happiness and hoped that Malaysia and Myanmar would expand their existing close and friendly ties in the years ahead, Wisma Putra said in a statement today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in a similar message, hoped that the people of Myanmar would enjoy greater success in building a happy and prosperous nation under General Than Shwe's leadership.

Dr Mahathir is confident that relations between the two countries will continue to be enhanced in the years ahead for mutual benefits.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawai, in a message to his Myanmar counterpart U Win Aung, expressed confidence that relations between Malaysia and Myanmar would further strengthen in the coming years.

-- BERNAMA

ARA YBY