

15 DEC 1999

Condolences-Tudjman

KING, PM SEND CONDOLENCES ON DEMISE OF CROATIAN PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 15 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah today extended condolences to the people of Croatia on the demise of President Franjo Tudjman.

"I know that Croatia has lost a great patriot and leader," Sultan Salahuddin said in his message to acting Croatian President Vlatko Pavletic and wife and family of the late Tudjman.

Istana Negara said Sultan Salahuddin and his consort Tuanku Siti Aishah learnt with great sadness the demise of President Tudjman.

President Tudjman died on Dec 10 of intestinal cancer.

The Malaysian Ambassador to Hungary, Mohamad Sani, who is also accredited to Croatia, attended the state funeral last Monday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also sent condolences to his Croatian counterpart Zlatko Matesa expressing great sadness.

"The people of Croatia has lost a great statesman and visionary leader who led his nation to independence and peace," he said.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Dr Mahathir, who met the president during his visit to Zagreb in 1994 and 1996, was touched by Tudjman's commitment to strengthening relations between both countries.

"I noted the president's wish then to visit Malaysia. I regret that his wish to visit Malaysia remains unfulfilled," Dr Mahathir said.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar also sent condolences to his Croatian counterpart Dr Mate Granic, saying that Tudjman would always be remembered as the father of independent Croatia.

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