

16 MAR 2001

AGONG SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO IRISH PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, March 16 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah today congratulated Irish President Mary McAleese on the occasion of Saint Patrick's Day.

According to Wisma Putra, the royal couple expressed hope that the president will continue to enjoy good health and the people of Ireland will continue to reap the benefits of the country's spectacular development.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed best wishes to his counterpart, Bertie Ahern, and hoped that Malaysia and Ireland will work closer together to achieve common vision and aspirations for the good of both countries and people.

He said Ireland has prospered under Ahern's leadership and is confident that the people of Ireland will continue to enjoy the benefits of his successful economic policies.

Foreign Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, in his congratulatory message to Irish Foreign Affairs Minister Brian Cowen, said Malaysia has always valued its relationship with Ireland and will continue to develop the relationship in the years ahead.

-- BERNAMA

NZ AHH RM