

01 JUN 2001

AGONG SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO ITALIAN PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, June 1 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah has sent a congratulatory message to Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi on the occasion of the country's 55th national day.

"We sincerely hope that the cordial relations and cooperation between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead," he said in the message.

According to Wisma Putra, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also sent a similar message to his counterpart Silvio Berlusconi, expressing the hope that Malaysia-Italy ties would be further strengthened.

"Malaysia and Italy have always enjoyed close trade and economic relations," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AT AZZ YBY