

27 JUN 2002

Britain-Relations

BRITAIN CONFIDENT OF CONTINUING GOOD RELATIONS WITH MALAYSIA

SEREMBAN, June 27 (Bernama) -- British High Commissioner to Malaysia Bruce Cleghorn said today he is confident that his government will have equally good relations with Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi when the time comes for Abdullah to take over as prime minister.

"We look forward to continuing that very close relationship with (Datuk Ser) Dr Mahathir (Mohamad) for as long as he continues to be prime minister but of course we are confident that we will have equally good relations with Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi when the time comes for him to take over as prime minister," he told reporters after meeting Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad, here.

He was asked to comment on transition of power to Abdullah.

He said British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Dr Mahathir had kept in close contact in the recent past.

He said: "They have met in February, they have written to each other on a number of occasions recently about world issues including the Middle East. The relationship between the two governments is very close.

"In Britian, both at the level of government and widely among the business peoples, I think there is a strong sense that Malaysia is one of the most stable and economically prosperous countries in this part of the world.

"We are very confident that whenever there is a change at the top of the government that will be managed without any structural change to the continueing growth of the country."

He said Malaysia would continue to be a very good country in which to do business and invest and for tourism as well and he was confident that British businessmen would continue to look very closely towards Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

RP JK