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Message-US

AGONG AND PM SEND CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO US

KUALA LUMPUR, July 3 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail, and the Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, today sent a congratulatory message to President George W. Bush in conjunction with the United States' 227th Independence Day.

In their message, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong sent their warmest congratulations and best wishes for the continued good health and for peace and prosperity of the US and its people.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad sent a similar message to Bush, wishing the President and the people of the US peace and prosperity in the coming years.

"I believe a healthy and robust American economy would help spur global prosperity," Dr Mahathir said in his message.

He said that it was a pleasure for him to have met the US President at the G-8 Summit in Evian and hoped that "you and other G-8 countries will give due attention to the problems and needs of developing countries as they struggle to develop their countries."

Dr Mahathir said he was pleased to note the continuing cooperation between the two countries in many areas, including in combating international terrorism.

"People to people relations remain very strong and Malaysians continue to be accepted into institutions of higher learning in the United States. This augers well for the betterment of our relations in the future," he said.

The Prime Minister was confident that with the commitment and understanding from both sides, bilateral ties between the two nations would continue to deepen and strengthen in the years ahead.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, in his message to US Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, said he was confident that the warm and mutually beneficial relations nurtured by "our two countries over the years will continue to grow in the coming years."

"I look forward to working closely with you to further strengthen and enhance relations in the future," he added.

-- BERNAMA

SR AHH RM SRI