

17 SEP 2003

AGONG SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO CHILE PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 17 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail, has sent a congratulatory message to the President of Chile, Ricardo Lagos Escobar, on the occasion of Chile's Independence Day.

The Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, also joined him in extending her sincere best wishes for the good health, peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Chile.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir sent a similar message to Escobar.

"I look forward to further strengthening the existing cordial relations between our two countries in the years ahead for the mutual benefit of our peoples," he said.

Dr Mahathir also looked forward to meeting Escobar again at the forthcoming Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Summit in Bangkok next month.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar also extended his greetings to his counterpart, Maria Soledad Alvear Valenzuela.

-- BERNAMA

RBZ AHH JK