

Dr Mahathir - profile

Highest Peru award for Dr M

**From Ahmad A.
Talib in Lima**

IN a brief but significant ceremony yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad received the Order of the Sun of Peru, Grade of Grand Cross award, from President Alberto Fujimori.

The award is the highest given to foreigners.

Fujimori said Dr Mahathir's leadership had been inspirational and worthy of emulation.

Responding, Dr Mahathir said he received the award on behalf of the country and the Malaysian people.

The Prime Minister's second day of his five-day official visit was also marked by the signing of bilateral agreements pertaining to air services, investment guarantee, trade and culture.

Later in the day, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Badawi also signed the exchange of notes regarding specific areas of technical co-operation.

A joint communique was also issued at the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The communique said Dr Mahathir and Fujimori reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of open economy and free trade.

The communique said the two leaders also agreed that the United Nations system be reviewed, especially the Security Council.

They also deplored the French action to resume nuclear tests in the South Pacific and urged the French to cease further tests.