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King-Bush

KING CONGRATULATES BUSH ON U.S. INDEPENDENCE DAY

KUALA LUMPUR, July 3 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah has congratulated President George W. Bush on the occasion of the 225th anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America tomorrow.

"The Raja Permaisuri Agong (Tuanku Siti Aishah) joins us in extending to Your Excellency our sincere congratulations and warm wishes for your continued good health and for the peace and prosperity of the people of the United States of America," the King said in his congratulatory greeting to the American leader.

A copy of the message was released by Wisma Putra to the media here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in a similar message to Bush, expressed hope that the auspicious day would usher in a strong recovery of the US economy that would contribute significantly to the growth and prosperity of all nations.

He said Malaysia and the US enjoyed close ties and economic cooperation which served their mutual interests well.

"I look forward to working closely with you for further expansion of these relations in the years ahead," he said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar told American Secretary of State Collin Powell that he was confident both of them could further strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation between Kuala Lumpur and Washington.

"I am happy the United States and Malaysia continue to enjoy close and mutually beneficial relations," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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