

11 MAY 2002

MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR VISIT TO UNITED STATES

SEPANG, May 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for London tonight enroute to the United States for an official visit at the invitation of U.S. President George W. Bush.

The Prime Minister boarded a Malaysia Airlines flight to London at the KL International Airport at 11.55pm.

Among those at the airport to send him off were his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and several other cabinet ministers.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to meet Bush on Tuesday to discuss, among others, Malaysia's efforts to tackle terrorism and the developments in West Asia.

The Prime Minister, who ends his visit on Wednesday, is also expected to meet U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Dr Mahathir's delegation includes Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim.

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