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G8-BUSH

A WARM MEETING BETWEEN MAHATHIR AND BUSH

By: Yong Soo Heong

LAUSANNE, June 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad described his meeting with US President George W.Bush at the Enlarged G8 Summit here as warm.

He said that although Bush's speech hinted at the US' position as a superpower, he (Bush) was somewhat warm towards him when he asked the Prime Minister about his well-being.

At a press conference for Malaysian journalists here, Dr Mahathir said that Bush also pat him on the back when they were both attending an informal meeting at Hotel Royal in Evian, France on Sunday.

Asked whether he did the same to Bush, Dr Mahathir said: I don't pat people's back."

The Prime Minister said that Bush also asked whether or not Dr Mahathir was still in power and the US leader was told ..."up to October."

Dr Mahathir added that before leaving the meeting, Bush shook his hands again.

As for the comments by US ambassador to Malaysia Marie T.Huhtala that relationship between the US and Malaysia is at its lowest, Dr Mahathir said: "Well, it was certainly not reflected in his (Bush's) attitude towards me." -- BERNAMA

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