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`Close ties with Britain in defence'

THE closeness of British and Malaysian companies in the field of defence is proven by the large British delegation to Lima 2003, said British Minister of State for Defence Procurement Lord Bach.

"I hope more British small and medium-sized enterprises will take part in Lima 2005.

"It is a tremendous opportunity for them and I have confidence that Lima will continue to be a world-class show.

"Lima 2003 is more impressive than the one two years ago, which makes it a suitable parting gift for (Prime Minister Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir Mohamad since the exhibition was his `child'", he said.

He was speaking at a meeting with the Press at the British Defence Ministry booth at the aerospace segment of Lima 03.

Lord Bach also described the maritime exhibition as "very impressive".