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POL-KUWAIT-US-SABAH

Kuwait-US Ties "Historic, Distinguished"

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KUNA
September 10, 2005

KUWAIT -- The representative of H.H. the Amir, H.H. The Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Saturday described Kuwaiti-US relations as "historic and distinguished."

Speaking to KUNA before leaving to New York for the UN General Assembly meetings, Sheikh Sabah expressed content for the deep appreciation Kuwait received for its financial contributions to help victims of hurricane Katrina.

"Undoubtedly, the reaction in the US to this donation was very positive and was reflected in the media through statements by American officials ... This is something we are proud of ... We in Kuwait believe that what we did was to express solidarity of the government and people of the State of Kuwait with America to overcome the ordeal of hurricane Katrina," Said Sheikh Sabah.

The Prime Minister noted that Kuwait was always keen to help the needy.

"Our history is a living evidence that these works are part of our tradition," he added.

Kuwait announced last week it was granting 500 million US dollars to help needy in three states in the US hit by hurricane Katrina.

Asked whether he would meet US officials on sidelines of the UN meetings to discuss fate of Kuwaiti detainees in Guantanamo, Sheikh Sabah said "the issue of the detainees is preoccupying us." He did not elaborate.

More than 150 heads of state and government will be attending the 60th General Assembly meetings to discuss many issues, including terrorism, human rights, UN reforms and global peace.