

Endorsement for initiative to solve Kampuchea problem

DrM welcomes Aussie quest

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today lauded Canberra's initiative in seeking a solution to the Kampuchean problem, saying that Malaysia was awaiting with interest the outcome of Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden's visit to Vietnam later this week.

The Prime Minister made clear that Malaysia welcomed initiatives from any country for the settlement of the Kampuchean problem.

Welcoming Mr Hayden's initiative in going to Hanoi, he said: "We are not against anybody making any attempt in search of a solution to the Kampuchean issue. In fact we are trying it (finding a solution) ourselves through Indonesia.

"We are interested to hear from you, when you return, the outcome of your visit," he told the visiting Australian Foreign Minister who called on him at his office here.

Briefing reporters after the 45-minute discussions, Foreign Affairs Ministry Secretary-General Tan Sri Zainal Abidin Sulong said the Kampuchean problem and the Antarctica issue were the two major topics discussed by the two leaders.

Tan Sri Zainal said Mr Hayden mentioned to Dr Mahathir some of the questions he was going to put forward to Vietnam during his visit there to enable him to make an assessment.

"I won't be able to tell you anything about it. But Mr Hayden did not bring up any specific proposals that he planned to make to Hanoi," he added.

The two leaders dwelt at length on the Kampuchean conflict and went

over a wider spectrum relating to the Kampuchean issue in terms of how it relates to the Soviet Union and China.

The Prime Minister briefed Mr Hayden of his own assessment of the situation and also elaborated on the principles from which the Malaysian Government viewed the problem as a whole.

Mr Hayden gave his own reading of the issue and indicated what he hoped to do and find out during his trip to Vietnam.

On Antarctica, Tan Sri Zainal said the two leaders presented the points of view and perceptions of their respective countries on the matter.

"We did not really go into the various controversies between the two countries on this. We just touched on the general feeling."

Dr Mahathir and Mr Hayden shared the view that the Antarctica should be free from exploitation and pollution. — Bernama

By MAILSPORT REPORTERS

SPORTS administrators feel any move to bar Cabinet Ministers, Menteri Besar and heads of State governments from holding positions in sports associations, will be a loss to sports.

The consensus is that most of these Government officials have been contributing to the development of their respective sports, and that their presence has made the associations what they are now.

With their political clout, these officials are a boon to fund-raising, one of the mainstays of running an association.

They were commenting on the front-page report in *The Malay Mail* yesterday that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to issue a directive barring senior government officials from such posts.

They are of the opinion that the officials who tend to hold the higher posts like president and deputy president, spend time with their sports association only if their services are required.

Most of the time, it is only their influence and political clout that carry the association forward in their endeavours.

Although the directive barring these members of government to hold positions in sports associations is expected to come from the Prime Minister's department, Dr Mahathir himself could not be contacted yesterday for confirmation of the impending move.

The administrators say should the directive be carried out, there was consolation in that the Ministers, Menteri Besar and State government heads could still be patrons and advisors.

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