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Mahathir-Cambodia

MALAYSIA ADVISES UN TO PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE WAR IN CAMBODIA

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ALOR SETAR, April 15⁹³ (Bernama) -- Malaysia today called on the United Nations to make adequate preparations for a possible war in Cambodia during the elections scheduled there next month.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia feared that war would erupt in Cambodia, based on the developments in that country.

Malaysia did not want its troops now serving with the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia to be exposed to the threat of attacks by the Khmer Rouge without adequate preparations, he told reporters at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport here before leaving for Melaka.

"We want to know what preparations the UN has made to face the possibility of war. We do not wish to expose our unprepared troops to a war because they are there only to maintain peace," he said when asked to comment on developments in Cambodia.

News agencies reported today that the Khmer Rouge had closed the door to the UN peace process, giving rise to concern that the guerrilla faction would step up attacks throughout the country to sabotage next month's elections. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would abide by every decision of the UN, including defending Cambodia if that was what the world body wanted.

However, he added, if Malaysian troops were required to engage in the war, then it would have to be done the right way and with preparedness.

"Yes...if there is going to be war, the UN has to provide adequate supplies otherwise it will be detrimental (to the troops)," he said.

Dr Mahathir suggested that the UN provide adequate supply of weapons and make sufficient preparations.

"We have pledged to abide by any decision of the UN but we do not want our troops to be defending Cambodia without any preparation," he said.

Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, had arrived here this morning to attend the opening of Wisma Darul Aman, the new government offices complex, in Jalan Tunku Bendahara here by the Sultan of Kedah. -- Bernama

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