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Bosnia - aid

MALAYSIA WILL CONTINUE TO HELP BOSNIA, MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 22 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has assured Bosnia-Herzegovina that Malaysia will continue to help its suffering people, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

Briefing reporters on the talks between the Prime Minister and visiting Bosnia-Herzegovina President Alija Izetbegovic, Abdullah said discussions at ministerial and senior official level between the two countries would be held to work out details of the aid.

Izetbegovic, who is on a four-day visit to Malaysia, and Dr Mahathir met alone before being joined by their respective delegations for another meeting which lasted more than an hour.

The President also delivered a keynote address at the influential Conference of Parliamentarians on Bosnia, which began here today.

The Malaysian delegation to the meeting included senior officials from the Prime Minister's Department, the Foreign Ministry, the Defence Ministry and the National Unity and Social Development Ministry. -- more

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Also taking part in the talks were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Napsiah Omar and Law Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar who is the Minister-in-Attendance.

Abdullah said the discussions between the two delegations had resulted in a very clear understanding of the problems facing Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said apart from strengthening co-operation between the two governments, the meeting had also enabled Malaysia to understand Bosnia's stand in declining the offer made at the latest peace talks in Geneva.

"We understand their position and will continue to support them at international conferences," Abdullah said.

He said Bosnia regretted very much the West's accusation that they were the obstacle to peace in the Balkans for refusing the offer made by the West.

"How will they accept the offer when land seized from them is given to the Serb and Croatian invaders and also when they have no access to the sea. It tantamounts to surrender," Abdullah said. -- Bernama

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