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BRITAIN GIVES WRITTEN ASSURANCE TO SETTLE HAWK PROBLEM

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- Britain today gave a written undertaking to resolve the problem of faulty components experienced by the 28 Hawk fighters it sold to Malaysia.

Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said copies of a letter containing this assurance were sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and himself.

The letter was signed by British Defence Ministry's Head of Defence Export Services Organisation, Charles Masefield.

About 30 components of the 18 Hawk 200 and 10 Hawk 100 were prone to breakdowns rendering the aircraft incapable of operating at the optimum level.

The aircraft were bought from British Aerospace (BAe) under an agreement between Malaysia and Britain. -- BERNAMA

JM YBY