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UN-Nuclear

M'SIA WILL SIGN TREATY DESPITE IMPERFECTIONS, SAYS UN REP

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will support and sign the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) despite the treaty's inability to halt all nuclear testing activities, its alternate Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) Datuk Hasmy Agam said Monday.

"Malaysia had supported the enabling resolution...and will sign the treaty out of realisation that an imperfect treaty is better than no treaty," he said at the UN committee meeting on Disarmament and International Security in New York.

A copy of his speech text was faxed here today from the Permanent Mission's office in New York.

He said the decision was made because eventhough the treaty, which was adopted on Sept 10, could not end all nuclear testing activities, it could at least suppress nuclear testing.

"While we regret that the treaty will not put an end to all forms and manner of testing of nuclear weapon devices, the treaty would halt or at the very least strongly inhibit nuclear testing as we know it," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in his address at the recent UN General Assembly, had criticised the CTBT as being flawed and deficient in enforcing nuclear disarmament.

On the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) Hasmy said Malaysia hoped that its review in the beginning of 1997 would consider further steps that should be taken by member countries to fulfill their obligations to the treaty.

He said Malaysia also hoped that the review process would seriously consider how to bring the few countries outside the treaty to realise its importance.

Malaysia is also a signatory of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) which was adopted in December 1995 for regional peace and security. -- BERNAMA

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