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Hamid-Taiwan

PARTIES TO CHINA-TAIWAN CRISIS MUST MEET, SAYS SYED HAMID

KOTA BAHARU, March 23 (Bernama) -- All parties involved in the China-Taiwan crisis must resolve the problem through discussions so as not to jeopardise peace in the region, Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said.

He said international crisis should not be resolved through the display of military might.

"The best way is through discussion, and the United States, China and Taiwan could defuse tension in the region if they could come to this," he told reporters after opening a five-day entrepreneurship course for ex-servicemen here.

Syed Hamid said there was no problem which could not be resolved through negotiations and discussions.

"I believe China, United States and Taiwan are interested in finding solution to the problem and the best way is to stop and avoid aggressive diplomacy which could lead uncertainties," he said.

He said Wisma Putra and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed had expressed the government's view of wanting to see the problem resolved through dialogue and the country's view was usually respected.

Syed Hamid also said the ministry was studying the possibility of allowing fulltime members of the territorial army Askar Wataniah as well as former British Army personnel serving in the then Malaya to enjoy Perhebat facilities like other regular armed forces personnel.

He said they all served for the country and their services should be appreciated.

About 15,000 Askar Wataniah members had been absorbed as fulltime members while the number of former British Army soldiers was small, he said. --Bernama

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