

17 SEP 1996

Abdullah-UN

RAZALI CAPABLE OF BRINGING CHANGES TO UN, SAYS MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 17 (Bernama) -- Malaysia today expressed confidence that Tan Sri Razali Ismail will be an effective president of the United Nations General Assembly who is capable of initiating much needed changes to the world body.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad said Razali's appointment to the post today came at a time when the whole world was hoping that a comprehensive change could be made to the UN.

"Certainly Razali, who has certain qualities, can play the role of the president of the General Assembly effectively," he told reporters after being interviewed on TV3's Malaysia Hari Ini programme.

Abdullah said Razali would also chair five important committees that were set up to boost the performance of the UN.

The committees relate to the UN system, UN restructure, budget, peace and peacekeeping, and development.

Abdullah said Razali's appointment reflected the international community's respect for Malaysia and Kuala Lumpur's effective diplomacy.

Razali will be appointed to head the 51st session of the General Assembly in New York from today.

Abdullah will leave for New York tonight to attend the new session while Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to address the General Assembly on Sept 27.

Abdullah will also attend several other meetings including the Multilateral Meeting of the OIC Committee on Palestine and the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia Herzegovina.

-- BERNAMA

MAM SK