

01/08/1997

Dollah wants panel to study UN Declaration

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - A committee to study and submit proposals to review the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights should be set up, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

The committee should study the 50-year-old UN declaration and its articles that need reviewing and submit new proposals before the call for review is raised at a higher forum.

However, any move regarding the matter will have to wait for the instructions of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, Abdullah told reporters after the first Malaysia-Pakistan Joint Commission meeting at the Regent Hotel today.

Abdullah said Malaysia will approach friendly countries to explain its position and the need for a review, adding that the Government will gather support to push for it.

Malaysia's call for a review has the support of Asean and China, which reacted strongly against the United States and European Union's objections.

In the Malaysia-Pakistan Joint Commission meeting today, Pakistan Foreign Affairs Minister Gohar Ayub Khan expressed support for Malaysia's call.

"We also had suffered discrimination from the Western human rights standard. Sometimes it's uncalled for, sometimes they unduly highlighted us in the Western media," he said.

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