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KOFI ANNAN ADMITS DIFFICULTY IN REFORMING UN SECURITY COUNCIL

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 15 (Bernama) -- United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan is facing difficulties in reforming the UN Security Council, according to Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said Annan told Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that countries involved in related discussions had expressed strong opinions reflecting national positions on the matter.

Briefing reporters on the 45-minute Annan-Mahathir meeting, Abdullah said Annan also briefed Dr Mahathir on the UN reform package involving administrative matters.

"He said the proposed package is very well received and believes that it will be approved soon," said Abdullah.

Annan also invited Dr Mahathir to attend the UN Millennium Assembly and also to a special UN meeting on human rights next year.

Abdullah said the prime minister briefed the UN chief on the regional currency crisis and the International Monetary Fund's role in tackling the matter. -- BERNAMA

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