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Hamid-Lima

LIMA '97 NOT AFFECTED BY ACTION OF US CONGRESSMEN, SAYS MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- The Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (Lima '97) will not be affected by the action of 27 US congressmen over Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's alleged anti-Jewish remarks.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today that in fact, a large number of American companies would be taking part in the six-day event starting on Dec 2.

"So far, the number of American firms taking part in Lima '97 is very encouraging. It's not affected in any way," he told reporters after witnessing the signing of agreements between Le Proton Lima Sdn Bhd and the TR Group of Companies here.

Syed Hamid said relations between the Malaysian and American people as well as American companies remained the same.

"We welcome Americans here and we don't want to quarrel with anyone," he said, adding that as people who understood democracy, Malaysians had the right to voice out their displeasure over the action of the congressmen who were asking the prime minister to apologise or resign for making the remarks.

The minister also said Dr Mahathir would be given a briefing on the preparations for Lima on Sunday.

Today's signing marked the appointment of Technology Resources Industries and its subsidiary, Celcom, as the official telecommunications provider by Le Proton, which is the organiser of the Lima 97' Aerospace.

Another TR Group member company, Malaysia Airlines, has been appointed as the official airline and ground handling company for the exhibition scheduled from Dec 2 to 9. -- BERNAMA

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