

07 DEC 1997

Abdullah-OIC

UPHOLD SOVEREIGNTY OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, URGE OIC FOREIGN MINISTERS

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

TEHERAN, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting here today called on the international community to respect and uphold the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Speaking to Malaysian journalists here, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the OIC Foreign Ministers did not want anything to happen which could break the Balkan nation into two parts.

"This is because the Bosnians themselves feel that there are certain unhealthy developments which can have an adverse effect on the unity of their nation."

"At present too much attention is being given to Serbs and Bosnians as separate entities," he said after attending the OIC Foreign Ministers' meeting which is preparing for the OIC Summit on Tuesday.

The resolution on Bosnia drawn by the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia-Herzegovina, was among the subjects agreed to at the end of their two-day meeting here.

Abdullah said the resolution would be presented to the conference on implementing the Dayton Accord in Bonn on Tuesday. Abdullah would attend the Bonn conference after which he would return to Teheran to be with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the OIC summit.

Today's meeting also discussed Iraq's position on what it called Turkish incursions into its territory.

The meeting resolved that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq be respected and called for an immediate halt to any encroachment into its territory.

The meeting also noted the issue of Turkish-Israeli military cooperation and felt that it went against the stand of the OIC which opposed Israel and supported the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Abdullah also held a meeting with his counterpart from Azerbaijan Hassan Hassanov at which they agreed to expand cooperation between their two countries.

-- BERNAMA

AZZ AAM