

17 DEC 1998  
Senate-Iraq  
DEWAN NEGARA DEPLORES ATTACK ON IRAQ

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 17 (Bernama) -- The Dewan Negara today approved a motion condemning the United States and Britain for launching air strikes against Iraq.

The motion, tabled by Senator Mohd Zuki Kamaluddin, was unanimously approved after it was debated by six senators.

It was proposed by Senator Rosli Mat Hassan and seconded by Datuk Christina Tibok Vanhouten.

When moving the motion, Mohd Zuki described the attacks as a blatant violation of Iraqi sovereignty and the human rights of its people.

"The sovereignty and human rights of people in Iraq were violated by attacks by the big powers at 12.49am Baghdad time or 6am on Dec 17 in Malaysia," he said.

"It is clear that the US and Britain do not respect the sensitivities of Muslims who will be welcoming the fasting month, especially the people of Iraq who are living in fear and sadness," he said.

Mohd Zuki said the military action showed that the United Nations Security Council had failed to prevent the US and Britain from continuing to bully Iraq.

He urged the UN to lift its economic sanction on Iraq as it has caused the deaths of almost 1.5 million Iraqi children.

The House has resolved to convey the resolution to the US Embassy and British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, and the UN Security Council.

Senator Datuk Zainuddin Maidin, in his debate, condemned the attacks and said they were inhuman.

Senator Rosli Mat Hassan said the strikes showed that the US was using its power to break up small countries throughout the world.

"History has shown that since hundreds of years ago the use of weapons would not settle any problem," he said in describing the US as arrogant and power crazy.

Senator Datuk Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman said many destructive incidents in the world were caused by US interference.

"In fact they (US) could be seen meddling in this region," he said in reference to US Vice-President Al Gore's recent statement supporting the "reformasi" movement.

Senator Yim Chee Chong also deplored the attack and urged the UN Security Council to immediately stop the air strikes.

Senator Datuk Ghazi @ Hasbullah Ramli said the launching of the military action had proven right the theory of conspiracy against Islam.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's repeated assertions that western powers are out to suppress us are most precise," he said.

Senator Hassan Ali also strongly condemned the attacks on Iraq.

-- BERNAMA

MS YBY