

15 NOV 1998
APEC-NEWS-IRAQ
KEEP ON TALKING, SAYS PM ON IRAQ'S PROBLEMS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that talks should continue on the issues concerning Iraq.

"We should keep on talking," he said when asked on solutions to the matter.

Dr Mahathir said if the US insist on having people who are actually bias even before they reach Iraq to go and inspect the country, the report may not not be very accurate.

"Why not let others do the inspection, infact when they allowed some of the representatives in the UN to inspect, they found that there was nothing," he said at a press conference after opening the Apec Business Advisory Council (Abac) summit here today.

"What I see is an interactable case in which no matter what Iraq does the US is not going to be happy with it and whatever the US does Iraq is not going to be happy with, so we reach a point where there is no solution to the problem," he said.

There has been a massive US military build-up in the Gulf despite Iraq's offer to let UN arms inspectors to resume their task of making certain Baghdad was destroying its weapons of mass destruction

Today, it was announced here that President Bill Clinton would not be attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit on Nov 17 and 18.

He would be replaced by US Vice-President Al Gore.

Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy told reporters this on the sidelines of the second-day of the Apec ministerial meeting.

Clinton has cancelled his visit in order to deal with mounting problems with Iraq. -- BERNAMA

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