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Abdullah-Iraq

MALAYSIA VOICES SUPPORT FOR ANY EFFORT TO LIFT IRAQI SANCTIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 30 (Bernama) -- Malaysia today expressed support for any effort aimed at lifting the United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

"We feel that the file on Iraq should be closed. The sanctions have been on for seven years now," said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

UN arms inspectors had during the seven years failed to convince the UN security council that Baghdad was hiding weapons of mass-destruction, he said.

"If they have been hiding things surely that could be proved by now," he told reporters here after meeting a special envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Dr Saadoun Hammadi.

Abdullah said Dr Hammadi, who is the speaker of Iraq's National Assembly, came here to arrange an official meeting between Saddam and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

However, the objective of the meeting would only be made known on Monday, he said.

Abdullah said Dr Hammadi also called on Malaysia and other friendly nations to understand Iraq's dissatisfaction with the report presented by the arms inspectors to the Security Council recently.

The minister said he assured Dr Hammadi that Malaysia would continue its relations with Iraq, and was prepared to supply food and medicine.

--BERNAMA

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