

13 MAR 2000

Najib-Bosnia

KL URGED TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

KUALA LUMPUR, March 13 (Bernama) -- Bosnia and Herzegovina wants Kuala Lumpur to continue to support its various institutions, including its armed forces as the Balkan state rebuilds itself and work to prevent the repeat of genocide perpetrated against its people a few years ago.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said this was conveyed during his meeting with Commander of the Federation Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, General Rasim Delic, here, today.

Speaking to reporters after the discussions, Najib said: "He told me that the situation in Bosnia is improving. But he wants us to continue to support the various important institutions, including the Ministry of Defence and the armed forces.

"This is because they are going through a period of consolidation and also, they would like to enhance their capabilities so that there will never be a repeat of the genocide perpetrated against them."

He said Delic specifically brought up the issue of training for armed forces personnel from his country.

Delic wants Malaysia to continue with the training programme for its officers and Kuala Lumpur was prepared to consider the request, said Najib.

He said that so far, 29 types of courses had been offered and the Bosnians accepted 12 courses including two courses conducted in groups.

At present, a Bosnian army officer is undergoing training at the Armed Forces Defence College here and another three at the Army Training Centre in Johor.

Malaysian military personnel have served under the United Nations peacekeeping in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At present, Malaysia has five observers there.

Najib also said that the sale of weapons was also raised at the meeting.

Delic arrived on Saturday for a four-day visit to Malaysia.

He is scheduled to call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Putrajaya tomorrow morning. He leaves for home tomorrow night.

-- BERNAMA

MAM RM