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Malaysia supports peaceful means

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Malaysia will continue to support efforts for Palestine to be recognised as an independent state, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

What concerned Malaysia now was the territorial dispute over East Jerusalem, he said.

"But we will support the Palestinian leaders in trying to have a peaceful solution on this," he told reporters at Wisma Putra.

He was asked by reporters whether Malaysia would formally back Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's intention to declare an independent Palestinian State on Sept 13.

Syed Hamid said this after handing over two cheques worth US\$100,000 (RM380,000) each as contributions from the Barisan Bertindak Kosovo fund for the refugees of Chechnya and Kosovo.

The donations was handed over to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees Asean representative, Rene Van Rooyen.

Arafat arrived here today for a short working visit and was believed to have sought support for the declaration during his meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Putrajaya this evening.

Syed Hamid said Malaysia had always been urging for a peaceful breakthrough in the more than 50-year-old conflict between Israel and Palestine.

"It is worthwhile for Israel to take this opportunity to sign a peace accord in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

"You can't be worried about security because the peace process itself is a guarantee for security."

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