

# Mahathir writes to Bush on terrorism

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has written to US President George W. Bush on ways to counter terrorism.

The letter, sent last Friday, is a follow-up to a recent telephone conversation between the two leaders.

Its content is a prelude to what they will discuss when they meet at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Shanghai on Oct 20 and 21.

Two other developments here in the wake of the Sept 11 attacks on New York and Washington are:

► The US has shown Malaysia its confidential report on the investigations into the Sept 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

► Bank Negara has issued a directive to freeze the accounts of those on the US wanted list or people with names similar to those in the list.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar disclosed these developments after launching a Sungai Pahang rafting expedition organised by the MAYC here, Bernama reported.

Last Monday, Bush telephoned Mahathir to thank him for his condolences on behalf of the people of Malaysia in the wake of the attacks.

The two leaders also agreed to hold further discussions on international terrorism when they meet in Shanghai.

Mahathir had said that he intended to write to Bush to explain his views on terror-

ism. Bush suggested that Mahathir write to him earlier, so that the matter can be discussed at their meeting during the Apec summit.

On the confidential report, Syed Hamid said US ambassador-designate to Malaysia Marie Huhtala and a US embassy official showed him the report last Friday.

On Malaysia's position on the investigation report, Syed Hamid said: "We take it that they are not taking action out of revenge ... they are taking action to counter terrorism and terrorist groups that may pose threats to various countries."

The report shown to him is the same that was shown to Britain, Pakistan and several other countries.

However, in order not to jeopardise ongoing investigations, the report cannot be publicly disclosed, he said.

Syed Hamid said the US is compiling information to prove that Osama bin Laden and the Al Qaeda group were responsible for the Sept 11 attacks.

On the request by the US that Malaysia cooperates by freezing the assets and accounts of those involved in terrorism, he said Malaysia will cooperate in line with the laws of the country and the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Syed Hamid also said Malaysia will extend humanitarian aid to Afghan refugees and he hopes non-governmental organisations will initiate measures to collect contributions to be channelled through the UN.