

# KL and Jakarta to act against militants

(SUN 23 AUG 2001)

## Security agencies of both countries will work closely and intensively

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By **Hazatul Syima**

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**PUTRAJAYA, Mon:** Malaysia and Indonesia agreed today on a more intensive and closer cooperation between the security agencies of the two countries at all levels on the issues of militants and extremist religious groups.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri agreed to exchange information and take preventive measures to monitor and control the activities of such groups.

"Mahathir and Megawati both expressed their worry on the existence of such groups not only in both the countries but in other neighbouring countries as well," Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Syed Jaafar Albar said.

He said both countries had cooperated well before, with Malaysia receiving a lot of information from the Indonesians on the bombings there.

The Indonesian police had detained a Malaysian, Taufik Abdul Halim, believed to be a member of a militant group called Malaysian Mujahidin Group (KMM), in connection with the blast at Plaza Atrium in Jakarta last month.

"With the cooperation of the Indonesians, we were able to go across and interview some people involved," he said.

He said cooperation regarding on-the-ground activities needed to be enhanced the most.

Syed Hamid was speaking to reporters on the issues raised by both leaders during their one-hour meeting at the prime minister's office here this afternoon.

He said both leaders also discussed the tendency or signs that militant or separatist groups have regional linkages.

"The terrorist group seems to have cross-border linkages. Both leaders agreed for early action to be taken so that this will not become a problem which will trouble the two countries and their other neighbours," he said.

Syed Hamid said Mahathir gave Megawati information on activities conducted by the KMM, which Indonesia had requested.

He said the prime minister had said Malaysia had been misused by certain groups that have members from Indonesia and other countries.

"Mahathir explained that sometimes Malaysia becomes a victim, but whenever we can curtail or when we get advanced information, we'll make sure we take necessary measures to ensure they are arrested or action is taken against them in accordance with our laws," he said.

On the Indonesian workers in Malaysia, Syed Hamid said Malaysia informed Indonesia on the need for regulations and legal channels for these workers to follow when working in the country.

Megawati is here at the invitation of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah.