

Malaysians join war at their own risk, says Syed Hamid

SUN 13 OCT 2001

PUTRAJAYA, Fri: Malaysians joining conflicts in other countries will not receive any assistance from Malaysian missions abroad, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Syed Albar said today.

Stating the government's stand, he said Malaysians who involve themselves in any war will be responsible for their own actions.

There are other ways for

Malaysians to help, such as by giving humanitarian aid or assistance to victims of war-torn countries, he told a press conference after receiving Yemen's Consultative Council president Abd Aziz Abd Ghani and his delegation at Wisma Putra.

He was responding to reports that PAS has declared a jihad against the United States and that vol-

unteers have left for Kabul to help the Taliban which is under attack.

Syed Hamid said the term jihad (holy war) should not be misused as it is to uphold the dignity of Muslims so that they are not sidelined and left behind in terms of development.

"Jihad in Islam does not condone harming and hurting others," he said.

"PAS should go through the proper channel and provide humanitarian aid to the Afghans."

On his meeting with Abd Aziz, he said his visit was in response to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent visit to Yemen.

He said the visit is to promote Yemen for Malaysians to invest in as well as to improve bilateral ties.