

# Anthrax letter mailed from US

But was redirected to Microsoft agency in Reno: Minister

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By Yusoff Ahmad

**PUTRAJAYA, Mon:** The anthrax-laced letter sent to the United States from Malaysia showed that it had originated from there.

"According to our sources, the letter was sent from there to a computer vendor here but was redirected to a Microsoft agency in Reno (Nevada) instead," Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said.

Syed Hamid said media coverage on something which is not proven should not be allowed.

"It helps to speculate information released by the *New York Times* which unfortunately was carried by others - including our newspapers," he said after receiving US Trade Representative and President Bush's special envoy, Robert Zoellick, today.

He said the sender's intention was to pit Malaysia against the US in the con-

flict with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

On his discussions with Zoellick, Syed Hamid said they focused on the economic and security repercussions of the Sept 11 attacks and the US bombing of Afghanistan on the region.

"We told him (Zoellick) that military retaliation on Afghanistan has raised our fears of a human catastrophe and suffering to civilians.

"But in no way are we

condoning terrorism as some 500 Muslims also died in the World Trade Center carnage," he said.

He said Zoellick expressed his government's gratitude for Malaysia's cooperation to counter terrorism.

US President George Bush also appreciated the letter sent by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently and has confirmed their meeting on the sidelines of the coming Apec summit in Shanghai, China.