

1&nationforum on terrorism

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Panel members' include Malaysia

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Malaysia will be in a committee of 10 Commonwealth countries discussing the issue of terrorism at an international forum next month.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the committee, which included Australia, Bahamas and Britain, would have its first meeting in London on Nov 19.

"I will be representing Malaysia to discuss the issue of terrorism and what would be the best way to overcome it," he said at the Parliament lobby today.

Syed Hamid, who had just returned from the Apec meeting in China, said the views of Prime Min-

ister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the need for an international conference on terrorism was well received by several countries.

Countries like China and Russia also agreed with Malaysia that the United Nations play the lead role in resolving the problem of terrorism.

"They agreed with us that a country or a group of specific countries should not on their own try to resolve the issue of terrorism without paying heed to the rest of the world," he said.

On Dr Mahathir's meeting with US President George W. Bush, Syed Hamid said there was good interaction between the leaders and Bush said he wished to enhance bilateral ties.

He said Bush also listened to Dr

Mahathir's views on terrorism and what Islamic countries felt over the issue.

Syed Hamid also said Wisma Putra had not received any information on reports that a Malaysian was among a group of Taliban's detained by the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan.

"I cannot say anything now as I have no information on the report."

He also urged the local media not to rely too much on information obtained from foreign news agencies as their reports were at times inaccurate.

Instead, he said the local media should compare the information with the reports of their (local media) own reporters who were in Pakistan.