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Najib-Force

M'SIA YET TO DECIDE TO JOIN PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN AFGHAN, SAYS NAJIB

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 17 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has not decided to send a peacekeeping force to join a United Nations peacekeeping force in war-ravaged Afghanistan, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said the presence of Malaysian military officers in the formation of the peacekeeping force consisting of European countries in London was only to gather information on the scope and role of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by Britain.

"Currently, we only want to know the scope of ISAF before making a decision," he told a media conference in his residence at Langgak Duta here.

Najib was commenting on a Reuters report on Saturday that military officers from 13 countries including from Malaysia met in London last week to discuss the scope and role of the ISAF in Afghanistan after the end of the US military operations in the country.

The ISAF was formed to provide protection to the Afghan people during the transition period.

Najib said the ISAF had yet to be sanctioned as the United Nations peacekeeping force.

He said another meeting would be held in London on Wednesday to work out the details of the peacekeeping force.

Malaysian military officers would continue to attend the meeting and a final decision would be made by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after consulting the Cabinet.

-- BERNAMA

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