

02 OCT 2001

Mahathir-Bush

DR M AND BUSH TO HOLD TALKS DURING SHANGHAI APEC MEETING

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and United States President George W. Bush will discuss world terrorism when they meet during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum meeting on Oct 20-21 in Shanghai.

The Prime Minister's Office said today that in their telephone conversation yesterday evening, during which they discussed world terrorism, both leaders agreed to further discuss the issue at the Shanghai meeting.

Dr Mahathir was happy that Bush was appreciative of Malaysia's support and his views, the PM's Office said in a statement today.

During their telephone conversation the Bush also assured Dr Mahathir that the war against terrorism was not a war against Islam.

The Prime Minister in turn told Bush that he would write to the US President later to explain his views on combating terrorism.

However, the US President suggested that Dr Mahathir write to him earlier so that it could be discussed during the Apec meeting.

In their conversation, Bush thanked Malaysia for its support of the US action against terrorism.

Bush said that since the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on New York's World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in Washington he had learnt much about Islam and the good things about the religion.

While both leaders agreed that the world should be mobilised against terrorism and that each country should play its part in its own way, Dr Mahathir stressed that fighting terrorism was different from an ordinary war "as the enemy is invisible".

Both leaders also touched on the impact of the incident on the world economy.

Besides expressing Malaysia's sorrow over the incident, Dr Mahathir was also hopeful that the US would be able to overcome its economic downturn quickly.

-- BERNAMA

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