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Explaining effects of sanctions

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - A symposium to discuss the 10-year-old economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations against Iraq will be held here soon.

It will be organised by a loose organisation formed among non-governmental organisations which joined the three-day peace and friendship mission to Iraq that ended yesterday.

NGOs from foreign countries, including the United States, which also opposed the sanctions, will also be invited to take part in the symposium.

Head of the group of NGOs in the mission, Mukhriz Mahathir, said in Baghdad yesterday that efforts must be stepped up to explain to the world on the matter as the sanctions were causing a lot of hardship to the Iraqi people.

Mukhriz, who is also president of the Mara Junior Science College Ex-Students Association, said the NGOs in Iraq would help inform the symposium organiser, the Malaysia-Iraq Fellowship Council, on the parties that should be invited.

The council was established to enable the NGOs in the mission to have a voice, especially in the efforts to get the sanctions lifted.

During the visit to Baghdad, the council donated four photostating machines to students and youth organisations and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

Head of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society's internal relationship, Jotiar Agrawy, received the donation.

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