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Get world bodies to halt attacks on Afghanistan

TWO Members of Parliament said the Government should use its influence over world bodies like the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Commonwealth to get the superpowers to cease their attacks on Afghanistan.

Datuk Ruhanie Ahmad (BN-Parit Sulong) said he was confident that Malaysia could play this role as it was well respected.

"With Malaysia's current standing, even US President George W. Bush wants to improve relations with Malaysia while British Prime Minister Tony Blair has sought Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice," he said when debating the 2002 Budget.

Ruhanie said on top of this, Iranian President Mohamed Khatami had voiced the hope that Malaysia would play a major role in addressing the problem.

Ruhanie said at the same time, Malaysia must urge the United Nations to initiate a meeting to identify the reasons behind terrorism.

Supporting this, Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong) said Dr Mahathir was in the position to influence other nations to hold a convention just to address the terrorism issue.

"I believe that all religions do not condone the use of force. We do not agree with the US attacks on Afghanistan in total as it does not address problems on terrorism.

"The attacks on Afghanistan will give the perception that the United States wants to attack Muslims.

"We abhor all forms of violence as we do not want innocent people to die."

Hoo Seong Chang (BN-Kluang) urged policymakers and trade leaders in Asia to be cautious in facing the current economic climate.

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