

29 MAY 2001

Syed Hamid-Security

INDONESIA ASSURES G15 DELEGATES OF THEIR SAFETY

By: Mohd Kamel Othman

JAKARTA, May 29 (Bernama) -- Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today that Indonesia has given an assurance that the G15 Summit here will not be affected following the tense political situation in the republic.

Speaking to Malaysian journalists, he said that his Indonesian counterpart, Alwi Shihab, had given an assurance that the summit would proceed and that the security situation in Indonesia especially in this capital city would be ensured.

Syed Hamid said that the Indonesian authorities would not declare a state of emergency during the summit and Coordinator Minister for Politics, Social and Security Susilo Bambang had been told to ensure the safety of all delegates.

"That's the undertaking and assurance given by Indonesia. We feel that at this time there are no indications that this summit will be affected," he said.

The Indonesians want delegates not to be alarmed and feel unsafe here, said Syed Hamid.

"If we notice from the ministerial-level meetings earlier, that is during the Trade Ministers' Meeting and the Foreign Ministers' Meeting, it is clear it is not affected," he said.

According to him, the two ministerial-level meetings had proceeded smoothly, without any hitches.

The political situation in the republic is tense following the impasse between President Abdurrahman Wahid and the People's Representative Council (DPR) which will convene tomorrow to decide whether or not a special session needs to be held to determine the position of Abdurrahman, popularly known as Gus Dur, allegedly involved in two financial scandals.

Last Friday, Gus Dur threatened to declare a state of emergency and dissolve the DPR if the special session is held.

The G15 Summit opens tomorrow at the Jakarta Convention Centre. Heads of government and delegates from member countries began arriving here today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is also scheduled to arrive here today.

The G15 comprises Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

This is the first time Indonesia is hosting the G15 Summit.

-- BERNAMA

MKO RM