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Iran-Mahathir

IRAN CONCURS WITH DR MAHATHIR'S VIEWS ON AFGHANISTAN

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- Iran agrees fully with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's views that the root cause of terrorism should be resolved first with particular reference to the current situation in West Asia especially the Palestinian question.

Iran's Foreign Minister Dr Kamal Kharazzi said that the issue of terrorism was very complicated and resolutions could only be found after the West Asian problems had been taken care of.

"Terrorism and the problem of dealing with terrorism is a very complicated issue and the root causes of the problems must be recognised. We must look how the US conducts itself in West Asia," he said at a press conference after calling on Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar here today.

Kamal is in Malaysia in the course of his tour of the region to hold consultations with allies on the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan.

During the 9th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) informal summit in Shanghai on Oct 20, Dr Mahathir in separate talks with US President George W. Bush had urged the U.S to help resolve the Palestinian issue in its fight against international terrorism following the Sept 11 attacks on its soil.

In sharing the views, Kamal said, "The West Asian problems must be resolved and the full rights of the Palestinians must be restored."

"The US cannot attack a Muslim country on the pretext of terrorism."

On the establishment of a new post-war government in Afghanistan, he said it should include representatives of all its races and ethnic groups and should be managed by the United Nations.

At the same press conference, Syed Hamid said that Iran and Malaysia shared the same view in their stand against terrorism.

Both countries agreed that war would not put an end to terrorism.

" Anything done in Afghanistan must satisfy the people of that country," he said.

-- BERNAMA

SLR AHH AAM