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Mahathir-Bush

MAHATHIR WRITING TO BUSH URGING HALT TO BOMBINGS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he will be sending a letter to President George W. Bush asking the United States to halt the air strikes in Afghanistan immediately.

"I am writing to President Bush asking America to stop the bombings against Afghanistan," the Prime Minister told a press conference after chairing a meeting of the Umno Supreme Council.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said he informed Barisan Nasional members of parliament that he was writing to the US president when they raised the subject of the US-led air strikes during a meeting earlier today.

The Prime Minister also said that he would give a briefing on the views of world leaders and Malaysia's stand on the issue of terrorism at a seminar organised by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) on Nov 16 and 17.

He said ISIS had been asked to organise the seminar as a step towards having a common stand on the issue by all Malaysian groups including opposition parties.

"Umno will also take part and provide its input," he said.

Dr Mahathir hoped that after the seminar, there could be a common stand among Malaysians on the best way to fight terrorism.

Local political parties already had a common position on the issue of terrorism and they all condemned the bombings in Afghanistan, but while some resorted to holding anti-American demonstrations others did not, he said.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on the proposal by the DAP for a discussion among Malaysian political leaders to come out with a common stand on terrorism and the US-led military action.

The Prime Minister said that apart from the air strikes, several other matters were discussed at the meeting with the BN MPs today and he would be issuing a statement about it later.

Dr Mahathir said all matters that caused dissatisfaction among the MPs were resolved at the meeting.

This included the dissatisfaction with cabinet ministers expressed by Kinabatangan MP Datuk Bung Moktar Radin in the Dewan Rakyat last week.

On the Umno Supreme Council meeting, Dr Mahathir said the matters discussed included the current drive to increase the party membership by 10 percent.

-- BERNAMA

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