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Syed Hamid-Terrorism

MALAYSIA INCLUDED IN COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has been chosen to sit in the committee comprising 10 member countries of the Commonwealth to discuss the terrorism issue.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the ministerial-level committee would hold its first meeting in London on Nov 19.

"Several countries have been chosen to sit in the committee and I will represent Malaysia to discuss terrorism issues and how to overcome the problem," he said at a media conference at the Parliament lobby, here today.

Besides Malaysia, other countries sitting in the committee are Australia, United Kingdom, Bahamas, Canada, India, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Tonga.

Malaysia had earlier expressed its views that an international dialogue be held to tackle the terrorism problem.

Syed Hamid, who had returned from the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) summit last night, said the views of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the need for the dialogue to tackle international terrorism had been agreed upon by many countries.

Other countries, including China and Russia, had agreed with Malaysia's view that the United Nations (UN) play the main role in resolving terrorism instead of a particular country or group, he said.

"It's only the question of time and what is important is the counter-measures, we want to see that the UN and not any particular country or group determines the measures," he stressed.

On the meeting between Dr Mahathir and United States President George W. Bush at the APEC summit, Syed Hamid said Bush had expressed the view that although Malaysia and the US had their differences at times, these should not strain relations between the two countries.

He said the two leaders had a cordial meeting and Bush had shown an interest in listening to Dr Mahathir's views as well as the views and stand of the Muslim nations on the US attacks on Afghanistan, and had exchanged opinions on the ways of preventing terrorism.

Bush had also expressed his desire to forge closer bilateral relations between the US and Malaysia, he said.

Meanwhile, Syed Hamid said Wisma Putra had not received any information on the report which claimed that a Malaysian national was among a group of Taliban fighters detained by the Northern Alliance militia as prisoners of war in Afghanistan.

"I don't know about the report...I can't confirm when there is no information," he said.

He called on the media to refrain from using information obtained through foreign media channel if the information was doubtful.

-- BERNAMA

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