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Malaysia does not support movement, says Thaksin

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Thailand has never believed that Malaysia supports any separatist movement in the south of Thailand, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said today.

Speaking at a Press conference at the end of his one-day visit here, Thaksin said he was confident of Malaysia's policies on the movement.

Malaysia had made it clear that it did not support any separatist movement in south Thailand.

Asked if he was satisfied with the Malaysian Government's assurance on this matter, Thaksin said: "Yes, we are confident of the policies of Malaysia towards the separatists in Thailand and we received tremendous co-operation and support from Malaysia."

Asked if Thailand had sought Malaysia's help to trace those responsible for the recent bombings in south Thailand, he said: "We will check who is behind this before we ask for co-operation."

On the bombings, he said it was not "that serious".

On the gas pipeline, Thaksin said it was part of his discussion with Dr Mahathir.

Asked why he chose Malaysia as the first country to visit as he could have picked others, he said this was because Malaysia was its immediate neighbour and that "we know each other".

Thailand Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai, who was present, explained on the discussion the two Prime Ministers had on Myanmar.

Surakiart said Thailand supported the role of Dr Mahathir in the national reconciliation process in Myanmar and that of the UN secretary-general's special envoy to Myanmar Tan Sri Razali Ismail.

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