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Malaysia condemns attack

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Malaysia condemns the terrorist attacks against the United States and mourns the loss of lives and anguish suffered in the tragedy, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

In his message to US President George W. Bush today, Dr Mahathir said he was deeply saddened and horrified by the devastating attacks in New York and Washington.

"Consistent with our policy of opposing all forms of terrorism, Malaysia joins with other nations in condemning this horrendous act," Dr Mahathir said in his message of condolence released here.

The Prime Minister said Kuala Lumpur joined the US and its people in mourning the great loss of life and the anguish suffered by the families of the victims.

"Our prayers are with you in this time of great tragedy."

The twin buildings of the World Trade Center in New York collapsed after two hijacked planes slammed into them yesterday, killing thousands.

Shortly after, part of the Pentagon in Washington was destroyed after another hijacked plane crashed into it, while another plane with 45 people on board, also believed to have been hijacked, crashed about 130km from Pittsburgh.

Dr Mahathir also spoke to Robert Reis, the Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy here, to express his deep concern and to convey his condolences to Bush.

The Foreign Ministry said Dr Mahathir had informed the Governments of Russia and Germany of his decision to postpone his visits to both countries.

This is in view of the uncertainties following the horrific attacks, it said.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, in a separate statement, also expressed Malaysia's shock at the attacks.

"Malaysia mourns the tragic loss of life and wishes to offer its deepest condolences and sympathies to the American people and the families of the innocent victims."