

12 SEP 2001

Mahathir-Condemnation

MALAYSIA CONDEMNS ATTACKS AGAINST US

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysia condemns the devastating terrorist attacks against the United States Tuesday and mourns the great loss of lives in the tragedy, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told US President George W. Bush today.

"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 condolence message to Bush, a copy of which was sent via facsimile to Bernama.

Two hijacked commercial airliners rammed into the twin World Trade Centre towers in New York while another aircraft slammed into the Pentagon complex which houses the US Defence Department in Washington Tuesday.

US officials estimated that thousands could be dead or injured in the morning tragedy as the twin towers alone accommodated about 50,000 workers.

In the message Dr Mahathir told Bush that he was deeply saddened and horrified by the devastating terrorist attacks.

"The Government and the people of Malaysia join you and the people of the United States in mourning the great loss of life and the anguish suffered by the families of the many victims.

"Our prayers are with you in this time of great tragedy," Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir also spoke to Robert Reis, the Charge d'Affaires of the American Embassy here to express his deep concern regarding the attacks and that Reis convey his condolence to Bush.

Meanwhile, Wisma Putra in a statement said that Dr Mahathir today informed the Russian and German governments he has decided to postpone his planned visit to Moscow and Berlin.

The postponement was made in view of the uncertainties following the horrific terrorist attacks against the US, the statement said adding that the visit would be rescheduled following fresh consultations with the governments concerned.

The Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar in his statement said Malaysia was deeply shocked by the devastating attacks against the US.

"Malaysia mourns the tragic loss of lives and wishes to offer its deepest condolences and sympathies to the American people and the families of the innocent victims of the horrendous tragedy," he said.

In PENANG, the Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon described the attacks as brutal acts of terrorism and murder.

"I join the Prime Minister in expressing deepest condolences of Malaysians to those who have lost their loved ones and friends as a result of these senseless and savage attacks. Our prayers go out to those affected by this tragedy," he added.

-- BERNAMA

ZU RYN