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Najib-War

M'SIA TO OPPOSE US ATTACK ON COUNTRIES SUSPECTED TO HARBOUR TERRORISTS

SHAH ALAM, Oct 5 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will oppose the United States attack on countries suspected to be harbouring terrorists, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said Malaysia's stand on the matter as explained by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was very clear.

Malaysia wanted the US to focus attention to hunt down the terrorists and not attack any country, he said.

"Malaysia wants the US to focus on tackling the terrorists' problem only," he told reporters after conferring the Territorial Army's honorary colonel rank on Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo here.

Najib said Malaysia was firm in its stand that terrorists must be hunted and eliminated and that it would back the United States' efforts towards this end.

He said Malaysia was liaising with many parties at international level especially in exchanging information on militant activities.

Asked whether this region including Malaysia would suffer if the US attacked Afghanistan, Najib said the impact would not be felt here as the target was only that country.

On Malaysia's security, he said it was guaranteed as the country was capable of handling any threat from anyone either from militant groups from within or outside the country.

"Nobody should question our capabilities in this matter," he said.

Najib also said Malaysia had on the quiet helped in many ways to ease the tension or prevent a civil war from breaking out in southern Philippines and its efforts had succeeded in reducing security threats in the republic.

"Indirectly, Malaysia has contributed towards reducing the action that can be taken by the militant groups or terrorists in Philippines in particular and in the region in general," he said.

To another question, Najib said Malaysia was prepared to consider the request from the United Nations to send Malaysian peacekeepers to any country if the purpose was to contribute towards peace.

On US' participation in the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA '01) Exhibition, he said the country only withdrew the participation of its air force planes and not entirely from LIMA.

-- BERNAMA

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