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Mahathir-UN

M'SIA PREFERS TO SEE UN PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN FIGHTING TERRORISM

By: Mohd Kamel Othman & Ridzuan Zulkifli

SHANGHAI, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will be more comfortable if the United Nations plays a major role in combating international terrorism, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr mahathir Mohamad said today.

"If it is just any country (that does that), no matter how powerful and how influential there might be some people who will not agree," he told a media conference here today.

He said that if the UN took the initiative, countries in the world would be more likely to submit to the policy direction.

Dr Mahathir cited an example on money laundering and the need to track down money belonging to Osama Bin Laden group.

"That's the UN resolution and all the countries are complying," he said.

Dr Mahathir, however, was quite satisfied that the US-led attack on Taliban-ruled Afghanistan was not a war against Islam.

"It is not a war against Islam and it is not a war between US and Muslims either. It is a war against terrorism.

"If it is a war against Islam, it would be an easy matter to wipe out 300 million Muslims simply by lobbing a few nuclear bombs on them which is not their intention at all," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the US had targeted what were believed to be places where the terrorists were hiding.

"We are quite satisfied that this is not a war against Islam and we will cooperate in order to hunt the terrorists although we may not agree with certain measures that have been taken," he added.

On religious extremists, he said no country would like to have such groups in their country.

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