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Syed Hamid-Terrorism

RUSSIA SUPPORTS MALAYSIA'S PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
TERRORISM

By: Mohd Kamel Othman

SHANGHAI, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said that Russia supports Malaysia's proposal that an international conference on global terrorism be held following the Sept 11 attacks on the United States and the heavy air strikes on Afghanistan.

He said that Russia's view was conveyed to him by its Foreign Minister Igor Ivavnov.

"They (Russia) said that the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad)'s idea to have an international conference on terrorism was a good idea because it will serve as a long-term solution to the problem," he told Malaysian journalists covering the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting here.

Syed Hamid held talks with Ivanov on the sidelines at the APEC Ministerial Meeting here today.

Dr Mahathir, who will be here Saturday to attend the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, had proposed that an international conference on global terrorism be held not only to tackle the problem at its root but also to define terrorist activities.

Syed Hamid also had bilateral talks with New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Philip Goff and his Australian counterpart Alexander Downer.

He said that Australia and New Zealand also agreed that efforts be taken to combat international terrorism.

"We (APEC foreign ministers) will be touching more on the question on terrorism at the informal breakfast meeting tomorrow," Syed Hamid said.

He said that the APEC foreign ministers have unanimously agreed on the draft of the document on terrorism and will leave to the leaders to discuss at the two-day meeting over the weekend.

"The leaders will come out with a separate statement on terrorism," he said.

The United States (US) is expected to try to demonstrate unity against terrorism among APEC's diverse members in the first major summit since the Sept 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

US President George W. Bush is seeking international support for a war on terrorism after hijackers crashed airliners into the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon in Washington on Sept 11, killing about 5,600 people.

While here, Bush will also discuss on the world terrorism issue with Dr Mahathir when both leaders meet this weekend.

APEC groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Peru, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the US and Vietnam.

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