

17 JUN 2001

Iraq-Symposium

SYMPOSIUM PLANNED TO DISCUSS SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAQ

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 Jun (Bernama) -- A symposium to discuss the prolonged economic sancations imposed by the United Nations against Iraq has been planned for here soon.

It will be organised by a loose organisation set up among non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that took part in the three-day peace and friendship mission to Iraq that ended yesterday.

Mukhriz Mahathir, president of the Mara Junior Science College Ex-Students Association (Ansara), said NGOs from foreign countries, including the United States, that opposed the sanctions would also be invited to take part in the symposium.

"We must step up efforts to explain the sanctions issue as it has caused a lot of hardship to the Iraqi people," said Mukhriz who headed the group of NGOs that took part in peace and friendship mission.

He said NGOs in Iraq would extend their cooperation by informing the symposium organiser, Malaysia-Iraq Fellowship Council, on the parties that should be invited to take part.

The council was established to enable the NGOs taking part in the mission to have a voice, especially in efforts to see the sanctions lifted.

During the visit, the council donated four photostating machines to students and youth organisations and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society internal relationship head, Jotiar Aqrawy, thanked the Malaysian NGOs for the donation.

The society will use the machine to make copies of medical journals to be distributed to doctors in Iraq.

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