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Syed Hamid-Terrorism

US ASKS M'SIA TO CLEAR MISCONCEPTION OVER WAR AGAINST TERROR

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 4 (Bernama) -- The United States has asked Malaysia to help Washington dispel misconceptions among Muslim countries over the US' current campaign against terrorism.

According to the Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said this was in recognition of Malaysia being an important ally in the region and the influence and respect it commands in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

"Washington hopes that Malaysia can help remove the notion that its war against terrorism is a conflict between Islam and the west," he told reporters after receiving the US ambassador designate Marie Huhtala at his office here today.

He told Huhtala that while Malaysia fully backed efforts to combat terrorism, it opposed any form of military strike as war would not defuse terrorism but only bring further miseries to innocent people.

"Malaysia looks at terrorism as against the teachings of Islam and that it is stateless, faceless and strikes in various forms," said Syed Hamid.

Syed Hamid said Huhtala conveyed President George W. Bush's appreciation especially to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for Malaysia's condolences to families of those killed in the Sept 11 terrorist attacks in the US.

The Bush Administration would inform Malaysia the outcome of US investigations into the attacks in which terrorists slammed hijacked jetliners into New York's World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in Washington.

At their meeting, Syed Hamid also conveyed to Huhtala Malaysia's hope that the US would earnestly pursue a permanent settlement to the West Asian conflict until a Palestinian state is established.

At a separate meeting later, Syed Hamid held a dialogue with executive committee members of youth organisations namely the Malaysian Association of Youth Council (MAYC), the 4B Youth Movement, the Federation of Peninsula Malay Students and the youth bureau of the Umno Youth.

Syed Hamid, who is MAYC president, said he explained to the youth leaders Malaysia's foreign policy and identified areas for their interaction with other non-governmental organisations.

-- BERNAMA

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