

# KL and Tokyo agree on question of Palestine

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PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia and Japan have agreed that the question of Palestine needs to be resolved in order to bring peace to the world, says Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

Briefing newsmen after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad met with his Japanese counterpart Junichiro Koizumi yesterday, he said the leaders agreed that while combating terrorism was important, it was also important to look at the causes of terrorism for long-term solutions.

"Japan believes the question of Palestine needs to be resolved in order to bring peace, in order to reduce or minimise the possibility of dissatisfaction and things that

encourage people to commit terrorist act," he said.

He said both leaders agreed new approaches were needed to solving problems because the world has changed since Sept 11, referring to the terrorist attacks in United States.

On whether Koizumi had asked Malaysia to back Japan for a seat at the UN Security Council, Syed Hamid said Koizumi did not raised the matter specifically.

"It is understood Japan wants to make its presence felt as a world economic power and at the same time look at East Asia and other regions as important partners.

"They talked about economic partnership and about mutuality, in terms of working together," he added.