

Malaysia protests treatment of prisoners

Nst 26 JAN 2002

KUALA TERENGGANU, Fri. — Malaysia has submitted a memorandum to the US Embassy today voicing its protest against the harsh treatment of Taliban prisoners at the American naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said that Malaysia was not happy with the way the prisoners were being treated as it violated human rights.

“We are not protesting the way how the United States is acting towards terrorism.

However, we are concerned that the treatment of Taliban prisoners is a bit too harsh.

Syed Hamid, who is also the Kota Tinggi Umno division head, was speaking to reporters after receiving 176 Umno membership application forms at the Kampung Lohong Nyiur Kembar, near here today.

Also present was Umno Kuala Terengganu head Roslan Awang Chik and its Youth head Mohd Sabri Alwi, who is also Terengganu Umno Youth treasurer.

Syed Hamid was asked to comment on a statement by the Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday that the Umno supreme council felt that the treatment against the detainees were inhuman.

Meanwhile, Syed Hamid said he was not aware of a report that Indonesian vice-president Hamzah Haz was planning to visit Malaysia to discuss the Government’s decision to hire Indonesian workers as the last resort.