

Israel declared a

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'terrorist. state'

Syed Hamid: There must be no double standards

THE special session of Foreign Ministers of Islamic countries on terrorism which ended here yesterday has declared Israel a "terrorist state", Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said.

He said there must be only one standard applied and the international community must take action against Israel.

"We have declared Israel a terrorist state. We have done so consistently and we have reaffirmed our position that Israel has conducted state terrorism.

"As such, the international community must take action against Israel and there must be no double standards. We also cannot accept the notion that Israel is acting as if it is defending itself from terrorist attacks whereas it has entered and occupied territories of others."

Syed Hamid was speaking at a Press conference at the end of the three-day Special Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on Terrorism.

He said the OIC wanted Israel to abide by the UN Security Council resolution calling upon Israel to withdraw all its forces from Palestinian territories.

"We want the international community to take firm action to ensure that Israel abides by the



resolution, including the use of sanctions. We support Palestine in its struggle for independence. We see Israel's actions now as being tantamount to state terrorism."

Asked if a definition of terrorism was achieved at the meeting, he said there was already a definition of terrorism under the OIC Convention (on Combating International Terrorism) but this definition was not accepted internationally.

"The purpose here is to articulate our views internationally at the UN with a formal stand. We cannot isolate ourselves and work in our own context."

"That is why (Prime Minister Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir (Mohamad) wanted this meeting to discuss all issues pertaining to the definition that is already there.

"Our intention is to have consensus on ways of combating terrorism, having co-operation. We

have achieved that," Syed Hamid said.

He said it was misleading for anyone to say there had not been consensus on terrorism at the special session.

"That is not true at all. We have achieved consensus on terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. This is very clear. When I tabled the Kuala Lumpur Declaration there was no argument, no exception, it was adopted unanimously," Syed Hamid said.

He said it should be borne in mind that this was the first time that there was an open discussion on terrorism in the OIC.

"We are very happy we achieved consensus which reflects acceptance of Malaysia's leadership role."

Asked if the OIC was considering oil sanctions on Israel, he said it had not been discussed.

"OIC has just stated that UN must come in on the question of Palestine and establish a mechanism to ensure ceasefire and restarting the peace process. The UN should impose sanctions," Syed Hamid.

He said Dr Mahathir had told United States President George W. Bush in Shanghai that US must play a role to bring peace in Palestine.