

# 'World must identify source of terrorism'

Nst - 9 APR 2002

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad received positive and encouraging response at the World Economic Forum in New York from Feb 2 to 5.

In several speeches, he discussed at length issues surrounding Islam and terrorism, especially in view of the negative attitude of other countries towards Malaysia, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said.

The speeches were 'Ensuring Capital Inflows in a Risk Averse Environment' which was presented at a workshop entitled 'The Role of Islam in the Modern State' and 'Globalisation: Challenges and Impact on Asia', which was delivered at a dinner.

Dr Mahathir also met with the mainstream media and spoke on 'Terrorism, Islam and Malaysia's

Response' at a dinner sponsored by the Asia Society.

"Overall, Dr Mahathir's explanations and views received good response during the Forum. He explained Malaysia's stand clearly.

"This has managed to instil confidence in the people and reflected Malaysia's ability to effectively tackle current issues," Syed Hamid said in response to a question from Datuk Raja Ahmad Zainuddin Raja Omar (BN-Larut).

Dr Mahathir had stressed that Malaysia was against terrorism in any form and the world must identify the source of terrorism if it wanted the problem resolved.

"He also stressed that Islam was a peace-loving religion and therefore it was wrong for others to say the religion encouraged its followers to act violently," Syed Hamid

said.

To another question from Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique (BN-Wangsa Maju) on whether Malaysians had had difficulty entering Western countries following the Sept 11 attacks, Syed Hamid said the number was small.

Since the incident, security at entry points have been tightened not only for foreigners entering the country but for the citizens.

"So far, the Government has not received any concrete proof of discrimination against Malaysians, although some have complained of mistreatment," Syed Hamid said.

"However, this number is small based on the larger number of Malaysians visiting the United States and other Western countries."

He advised Malaysians to adhere to foreign laws.