

PM: M'sia, OIC to protest against air strikes

STAR - 8 SEP 2002

CYBERJAYA: Malaysia and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) countries would lodge a joint protest against the United States and British air strikes on Iraq.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who expressed sadness over the strikes, said the attacks would seriously hamper international efforts to fight terrorism and raise anger against the US.

"We will contact the rest of the

Islamic countries. We will voice our views that we are against the attacks and we will not be involved in this kind of activity organised by the United States and its allies.

"I feel that this operation will not help global efforts to contain terrorism and will surely create more anger among certain people.

"The air strikes against Iraq will frustrate the international co-operation to fight against terrorism," he

said after meeting the Multimedia Super Corridor international advisory panel (MSC-IAP) board of advisers at Cyberview Lodge here yesterday.

The Prime Minister was commenting on the attacks on Iraq's major western air defence installation, launched on Thursday, in which about 100 American and British aircraft took part.

The raid was the biggest single operation against the country for

four years.

On another matter, Dr Mahathir said he was not surprised by the lack of development in Kelantan.

He said the PAS-led government was incapable of developing the state.

"They can promise anything that they cannot deliver, including saying that by voting for PAS, the people can go to heaven. That is why they were not able to do anything (to develop Kelantan)," he added.