

Malaysia shares views with Ireland

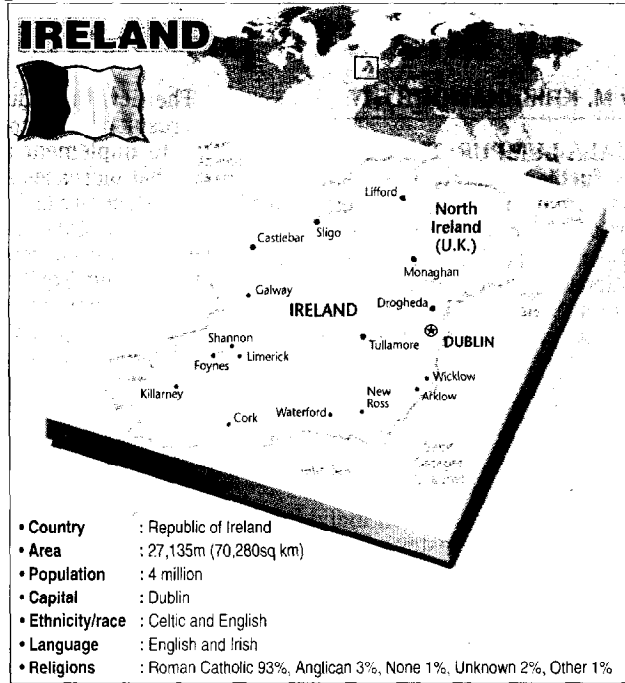
KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia and Ireland share the view that war is not the answer to resolving conflicts or disputes, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said yesterday.

He said both countries agreed that war would not solve the Iraqi problem.

Syed Hamid said that visiting Irish President Mary McAleese had stressed the need for dialogue to resolve the issue, which may lead to the United States declaring war on Iraq.

He said this shared view was jointly expressed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and McAleese after Dr Mahathir paid a 30-minute courtesy call on McAleese at Renaissance Hotel here.

McAleese, who is on a four-day visit to Malaysia, the first by an Irish head of state, is leading a 55-member delegation that includes Ireland's Minister of Science and Education Noel Dempsey.



Syed Hamid, who was minister-in-attendance, told reporters after the courtesy call that both leaders also agreed on the importance of the peace process in resolving world conflicts including the Israeli-Palestine discord.

He said the Irish President shared a similar view with Malaysia, that the root causes of terrorism needed to be determined and understood to combat terrorist activity.

Earlier, McAleese who was

accompanied by her husband Dr Martin McAleese, was accorded a red-carpet welcome at Parliament Square.

The visiting President was greeted on arrival by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail and Dr Mahathir.

Later, she was introduced to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Cabinet ministers, senior government officials and members of the diplomatic corps.