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ASEAN CALLS ON IRAQ TO COMPLY WITH UN REQUESTS

PHNOM PENH, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Asean leaders today voiced support for the efforts of the United Nations (UN) to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and urged Baghdad to fully comply with the UN Security Council resolutions.

The leaders said in a statement at the eighth Asean summit here that the situation in Iraq was a matter of grave concern and that a war would destabilise the global economy and impact on the region.

These are the first remarks from Asean since the United States threatened war on Iraq if it refuses to allow international weapons inspectors into the country.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the other Asean leaders also expressed deep concern at the Middle East situation.

"With the assistance of the international community, a peaceful solution to end the worsening cycle of violence in Israel must be formulated," said the statement issued by host Prime Minister Hun Sen on behalf of the leaders.

Closer home, the leaders called on North Korea to honour its commitment to give up its nuclear weapons programmes and reiterated their support for a peaceful reunification of the two Koreas.

-- BERNAMA
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