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BN will back Opposition motion to protest against US's Jerusalem move

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PUTRAJAYA, Sat. - The Barisan Nasional will support an Opposition motion in the Dewan Rakyat next week to protest against the US move to recognise Jerusalem as capital of Israel.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said it would be tabled on Monday or Tuesday.

He said all Muslims should object to the US decision that had clearly ignored the views of the community on the matter.

"This move (to protest) is not party-based. It is the voice of Malaysians who are uneasy with the action taken," he said.

He said the US move was regretted as it was a decision made in a time of instability and tension, as well as done without considering the sensitivities of Muslims.

"The Palestine-Israel conflict is still unresolved and they have brought up another issue. This gives the impression that they do not care about the views of Palestinians and Muslims," he said.

US President George W. Bush signed the legislation on Monday that required the US administration to identify Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Syed Hamid was speaking after the flagging off of the Palestinian Humanitarian Run by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Dataran Putra.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein, who was also present, urged the international community not to forget the plight of Palestinians even though the United States was trying to divert world attention to its current rift with Iraq.