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Toyad: Malaysia not on US list of countries linked to terror groups

MALAYSIA has never been placed by the United States under any list of countries having links with terrorist groups.

Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Leo Michael Toyad told Chow Kon Yeow (DAP-Tanjung) that he had his facts wrong when he claimed Malaysia was one of 15 countries named by the US as having links with terrorist groups.

"The list concerns countries where visa procedures have been tightened."

He said Malaysia's stand on terrorism was clear.

Asked by Chow whether Washington had informed Kuala Lumpur the reasons why Malaysia was placed on the list, Toyad said it was its decision.

"We gave our commitment to combating terrorism in Southeast Asia and the world."

Toyad was responding to points raised by MPs debating next year's allocations for his ministry.

Responding to Datuk Mohd Zin Mohamed (BN-Shah Alam), Toyad said Malaysia would defend its rights on water and wanted Singapore to accept the fact that a price review was just.

He said Malaysia would not retreat from its position.

To a suggestion from Teresa Kok (DAP-Seputeh) that Malaysia establish diplomatic relations with the Vatican, especially with the recent visit by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the Holy See, he said various factors needed to be considered before such a move was made.