

11 OCT 2002

Syed Hamid-Iraq

MALAYSIA CONCERNED U.S. MAY ATTACK IRAQ BASED ON CONGRESS MANDATE

By: Salbiah Said

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is concerned that the the United States may attack Iraq based on the mandate given by the U.S. Congress to wage war on Baghdad, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

He said such a development would create much anxiety internationally as the authorisation did not come from the United Nations or reflect the views of the international community.

"We believe the best way is through the United Nations," he told reporters at the Brunei International Airport upon arrival as part of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's delegation.

Syed Hamid was asked to comment the the move by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to authorise President George W.Bush to go to war with Iraq.

"We have to be first satisfied that Iraq is a threat or that the weapons owned by the country has the potential to destroy the world or the region ... only then should a decision (to attck Iraq) be made," the minister said.

He said Washington should take note that Iraq had agreed to allow UN weapon inspectors to conduct inspections in Iraq without conditions

Syed Hamid said the support from Congress should not become the driving force to create war.

"When will the war end? This is worrying," he said. "The victims will definitely be the general public and this surely will not benefit anyone."

-- BERNAMA

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