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Malaysia will support action only through UN

BRUNEI, Fri. - Malaysia will support military action only through the United Nations Security Council's resolution after it is satisfied that Iraq possesses chemical and biological weapons and is indeed a threat to its neighbours.

Otherwise, said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, the United States should not adopt such an approach as it would not resolve any problem.

"We hope the US will not use the mandate given by Congress by putting the UN on the sidelines.

"Our stand is clear, we want the UN to initiate and embark on the necessary actions," he said here today.

Syed Hamid was here to accompany Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on a two-day working visit beginning today.

US lawmakers today gave US President George W. Bush solid bipartisan support for a strike on Iraq, setting the stage for a show-down next week over whether the Security Council will also threaten the use of force to compel Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to disarm.

Syed Hamid said any unilateral action would only weaken the UN and cause a dent on the integrity of its secretary-general.

"Such a move by the US will only be seen as disregarding the views of the international community," he added.