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Syed Hamid-Australia

M'SIA TO STUDY ANTI-TERRORISM PACT WITH AUSTRALIA, SAYS SYED HAMID

By: S. Retnanathan

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will study the anti-terrorism agreement it signed with Australia before taking any action against Canberra, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

Syed Hamid said he was sure the agreement did not allow for any pre-emptive strike on terrorist targets in the region.

"The pact does not allow for any pre-emptive strike on suspected terrorist targets, but we have to study it and then take necessary action," he told Bernama.

He said the agreement did not permit any foreign intervention in the fight against terrorism in Malaysia as it was initiated for exchange of information to combat the terrorism threat haunting the world today.

Syed Hamid was responding to the statement by Australian Prime Minister John Howard on Sunday that he would launch pre-emptive strikes against terrorists in neighbouring Asian countries if they planned to attack Australian interests.

"They too do not want our students to go to other countries and have promised to settle this hiccup soon," he said.

Asked on the purpose of the telephone call, Syed Hamid said it was to extend Powell's Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings to him, Dr Mahathir and all other Muslim leaders in the country.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri to all members of the Malaysian dipmatic corps overseas. I hope they would continue their hardwork for the country," he said.

He also wished Malaysian Muslims a happy and prosperous Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

-- BERNAMA

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