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Najib-Somalia

MINDEF TO ISSUE DOCUMENTATION ON MALBATT'S ROLE IN SOMALIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 25 (Bernama) -- The Defence Ministry will issue a documentation on Malaysia's role in the rescue of American forces in Somalia in 1993.

The documentation will help clarify doubts over the role of the Malaysian MALBATT members during their rescue of American forces who were being surrounded by troops loyal to General Farah Aidid in Mogadishu, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

"With the available facts, all misconceptions about the incident, be it in the book or in the film will not arise," he told the media after launching a logo for the Trade Convention and Expo 2002 held here today.

He was commenting on the American film "Black Hawk Down", which had failed to portray the role played by Malaysian soldiers under MALBATT in the rescue of American forces.

During the incident 113 MALBATT members, serving under the United Nations were instructed to rescue 75 members of the American forces after two US helicopters were shot down in 1993.

During the incident a MALBATT member Corporal Mat Aznan Awang and 18 members of the American forces were killed.

Najib said he had requested former deputy commander for MALBATT in Somalia Colonel Mohd Rozi Baharum to submit a detailed report on MALBATT's role in the incident.

The film "Black Hawk Down", directed by Ridley Scott, and based on a book of the same title written by Mark Bowden, was released for worldwide screening on Jan 18.

The minister said the Trade Convention and Expo 2002, jointly organised by the Ex-servicemen Chamber of Commerce and the Armed Forces Veteran Affairs Department scheduled to be held from April 18 to 21 at the Putra World Trade Centre here, will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

BERNAMA

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