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Raid on Iraq condemned (HL)

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CYBERJAYA, Sat. - Malaysia today condemned the American and British air raid on a major Iraqi air defence installation, saying it was a futile effort in the war against terrorism.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the strike would only further enrage certain groups and hamper efforts for collective global action against terrorists.

"I am disappointed. I don't think the raid will help in the war against terrorism. It will only stoke anger among certain people and hinder efforts to co-operate against terror."

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after a series of one-on-one meetings with members of the Multimedia Super Corridor International Advisory Panel (IAP) at Cyberview Lodge.

He said Malaysia, as a leading Muslim nation, would voice its stand against the air raid and contact leaders of other Islamic countries for their views.

"We will contact other Islamic nations," he said when asked if Malaysia would initiate action at the United Nations or Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Foreign news agencies reported yesterday that 100 aircraft attacked the installation, west of Baghdad.

On the IAP meetings that ended today, Dr Mahathir said panel members discussed business and investment possibilities with local technopreneurs.

Local and foreign information technology companies had also promised to provide training to encourage creativity among technopreneurs.

Earlier today, Dr Mahathir held closed-door talks with senior executives of Silicon Graphics, Cyber Century Forum, Ericsson, Siemens, Motorola and DHL. Each meeting lasted 30 to 40 minutes.

IAP members this morning joined a tree-planting ceremony to mark the end of the meeting.

Dr Mahathir was also asked about RTM's programme on Kelantan's economic backwardness.

"Pas is always making promises to develop the State that they cannot keep. They even promised their voters that they will go to heaven because they voted for the party. For them making promises is a light matter that can be done any time. They will even promise things they cannot fulfil."