

02 APR 2002

Terrorism-Algeria

ALGERIA CONSIDERS DR MAHATHIR A DEPENDABLE LEADER

PUTRAJAYA, April 2 (Bernama) -- Algeria considers Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad a man of vision and a leader whom the Islamic world can count on.

Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Amine Kherbi described Dr Mahathir as a man of vision in all fields and not just on the subject of terrorism, which is being hotly debated by the Islamic foreign ministers at the on-going special session in Kuala Lumpur.

"We have high respect for him and his advice is great," he told Bernama after calling on Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at his office, here, today.

Asked to comment on Dr Mahathir's speech at the opening of the special session of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers on terrorism yesterday, Dr Kherbi said the Malaysian prime minister had made clear the term terrorism.

He said all OIC members should view Dr Mahathir's speech in a broader perspective and not just interpret certain points out of context.

"One should look at his (Dr Mahathir) speech as a whole and just not take it on a piecemeal basis," he stressed.

On his meeting with Abdullah, he said they exchanged views on the present situation in the OIC and talked about bilateral cooperation.

"Malaysia is a friendly and a close country to Algeria," he added.

Besides Dr Kherbi, Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Najib Sabri Ahmad and Pakistan's Interior Minister Lt-Gen (Rtd) Moinuddin Haider also called on Abdullah.

Each of the ministers had a 30-minute session with Abdullah.

-- BERNAMA

DC ZS JK