

Special resolution tabled on Mahathir

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PUTRAJAYA: A special resolution was tabled at the end of the Organisation of Islamic Countries Foreign Ministers Preparatory Meeting yesterday on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Member country Sierra Leone tabled a resolution to write a letter and commendation to Mahathir for his con-

tribution to the socio-economic development of Islamic ummah and Malaysia.

Speaking at a press conference, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said it suggested a meritorious award be signed by the 9th OIC chairman and the secretary-general.

"This is unprecedented, I did not accept the resolution as I am from Malaysia and it would not be right," he said.

Asked if the meeting wel-

comed the US backed-Iraq governing body to OIC, Syed Hamid said: "Why should we welcome Iraq? That question does not arise as Iraq has never ceased to be a member of the OIC."

Asked about talk of a welcoming ceremony for Iraq, he said he was aware of it, adding there was no necessity to do so as they have sent representatives and "we have accepted them as they are representing the Iraqi people".

"We cannot endorse the occupying force. If we welcome a governing council we might have a legal problem because OIC membership is based on countries," he said.

On speculation on the appointment of a new OIC secretary-general, he said the candidate proposed by Malaysia is a very experienced diplomat. Only three candidates from three countries have been suggested - Turkey, Bangladesh and Malaysia.