

27 SEP 2003

MALAYSIA WILL JOIN ONLY UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN IRAQ

PEKAN, Sept 27 (Bernama) -- Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today reiterated that Malaysia was ready to join any peace keeping force in Iraq under the banner of the United Nations.

Malaysia would not join any multinational force outside of the framework of the UN as stated by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he said after chairing an election preparatory meeting here.

Najib who accompanied the Prime Minister on his official visit to Sweden last week, also said the visit had helped Malaysia expand military cooperation with companies producing military equipment in that country.

He said one of the companies, Bofors Defence, would sign a joint venture agreement with Penang Shipbuilding and Construction Sdn Bhd and Naval Dockyard Sdn Bhd to set up a ships-gun manufacturing factory in Lumut, Perak.

The Lumut factory would also be the Bofors regional centre for artillery maintenance, he said.

The joint venture agreement was expected to be signed during the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) show.

At present the Malaysian navy has 140-Bofors made guns.

-- BERNAMA

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