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Syed Hamid-Straw

M'SIA REMAINS UNCHANGED ON NO WAR TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS - SYED HAMID

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- Malaysia remains unchanged in its stand that resolving conflicts should not be achieved through war, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

He made the statement on the eve of the visit by the British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Jack Straw tomorrow.

Straw will be in Malaysia for a one-day official visit, believed to drum up support for a US-led war against Iraq, ahead of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Kuala Lumpur next month.

The visit was his first since becoming British Foreign Secretary in June 2001.

He is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Straw would also hold discussions with Syed Hamid on bilateral and international issues.

Syed Hamid told Bernama today that Britain would likely take the opportunity from Straw's visit to explain the British views together with that of the US -- its ally in the war against terror, on the Iraq issue.

"I think he will take the opportunity to explain the British views together with the American views.

"But, I can tell you, in so far as Malaysia is concerned, we believe in conflict resolution not through war and we do not believe in anybody giving itself the solemn right or the sole right to change government or change regime by imposition," he said.

Syed Hamid said Kuala Lumpur strictly adhered to its foreign policy that should there be any change in government or regime, "it should be from within."

"I think the Americans and the British know our views, and the views of developing countries, the views of the great majority of NAM member countries," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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