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Alliot-Mahathir

FRANCE SHARES VIEW WITH MALAYSIA ON U.N.'S ROLE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 29 (Bernama) -- France shares Malaysia's view that in the field of international relations and legality, the United Nations (U.N.) has a major role to play, said French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie today.

"We believe that this is an absolute pre-requisite for World's peace and stability," she told a news conference at a hotel here.

Alliot-Marie, who arrived this morning for a two-day visit, earlier held talks with Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad on bilateral ties and international issues.

She said the identity of a nation must be respected and given a chance to be heard in international relations.

"We want the international relations to be balanced and we want each group of nations to have a possibility not only to express their point of view but also to be heard.

"In other words, we want the international relations to be based on equilibrium and dialogue," she said.

In fact, she said the common point of view, which Dr Mahathir and she shared, corresponded with the point of view of many nations in the world.

"I have had opportunities to travel over the past few weeks, meeting many people including in London, Russia, India and some countries in Africa. I can assure you that whether they say so in so many words or not, this is precisely what they all aspired," she said.

Asked whether they also talked about the situation in Iraq, Alliot-Marie said: "Yes we did. We believe that the war is the worst possible solution.

"Another point of view that we share is that the Iraqi people should have the right to choose their own leaders," she said.

Asked whether there was room for more military contracts for Malaysia, she described military cooperation between the two countries as being at a high level.

"When you get to know each other and share the same views, you can then talk and act with full trust and this means that there are lots of important contracts which are ongoing," she said.

On cooperation with Malaysia in the fight against terrorism, Alliot-Marie said as the terrorist network had become worldwide, countries should exchange intelligence.

"It is precisely what we are doing with Malaysia," she added.

-- BERNAMA

MAS RAM ABG