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M'SIA SUPPORTS MOVE TO BLOCK NATO PLAN TO DEFEND TURKEY, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Malaysia is fully supportive of the move by France, Germany and Belgium to block Nato's military planning to protect Turkey ahead of war in Iraq.

"Well, it is obvious their stand is not to wage war, and to find some other solutions to settle this problem with Iraq.

"And I think, we are fully supportive of this," said the Prime Minister when asked on the move by France, Germany and Belgium to block the automatic start of Nato procedures for the military planning to protect Turkey.

France, Germany and Belgium argued that preparations to defend Turkey could be seen as sanctioning military actions against Iraq before diplomatic initiatives have been exhausted.

As a likely launchpad for a strike against Iraq, Turkey is nervous about possible counter-attacks on its southern flank.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after launching the development of the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, soon to be a new distinctive landmark in the capital city.

-- BERNAMA

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