

14 APR 2003

Abdullah-Syria

M'SIA HOPES SYRIA WILL NOT BE ATTACKED BY THE US

SHAH ALAM, April 14 (Bernama) -- Acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today Malaysia hopes that Syria will not be attacked by the United States which has alleged that the Arab nation is in conspiracy and hiding senior Iraqi leaders.

"I hope this will not happen and if it does happen, it'll be tragic," he said when asked by reporters to comment on the possibility that the US will attack Syria.

Abdullah said that even from the start, Syria had not been accused of being a nation in possession of weapons of mass destruction and such things and this issue only cropped up following recent allegations.

"That is why Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stated that if this is the way, nobody will be free and if they're linked with issues that could be regarded as being against the interest of the US, they (the US) can act against you," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after opening the Conference of District Officers and Local Authorities 2003 here.

Referred to the so-called 'axis of evil' comprising nations which did not include Syria, he said that the labelling was done by the US and it was most powerful.

He said that Malaysia still strongly upholds and respects the sovereignty of nations under the United Nations, areas under their jurisdiction, the freedom of their people and their right of self-determination by the people.

Asked on the fate of Malaysians who have been injured in Iraq, Abdullah hoped that they could be transported to Jordan so that they could be given better medical treatment.

"But under the circumstances, it's difficult to do so," he said.

Abdullah said that the government would seek the services of the Malaysian embassy in Amman and other parties that could provide assistance.

-- BERNAMA

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