

15 MAY 2003

Nasyo-Malaysia

NASYO CONSIDERS MOVING HQ FROM IRAQ TO MALAYSIA

By: R. Ravichandran

MELAKA, May 15 (Bernama) -- The Non-Aligned Students and Youth Organisation (Nasyo) is looking into the possibility of moving its headquarters from Baghdad, Iraq to Malaysia.

Nasyo deputy secretary-general and head of foreign affairs, N. Bossoondoyal, said the current security and political situation in Iraq was not conducive for the organisation to continue operating from Baghdad.

The Nasyo head office in Baghdad was also damaged by the war in Iraq, he told Bernama this at the end of the Roundtable of World Youth Leaders here today.

Bossoondoyal said Malaysia's current chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was another crucial factor for the move.

He said Nasyo viewed seriously Malaysia's efforts to revive the 116-nation movement and put it on the right track in accordance with NAM's principles and policies which Nasyo also followed.

"I am seeing the revival of NAM coming fast...to bring changes to the benefit of member countries," said Bossoondoyal who was based in Iraq for 10 years until just before the United States-led invasion of the country.

Bossoondoyal said the current NAM chairman, Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was well known at international forums as the champion of the developing countries, many of them being NAM members.

Another factor to consider was that Nasyo's principles and policies were similar to NAM and Malaysia's chairmanship would help the causes of Third World countries to be heard more.

Nasyo was established in Baghdad in April 1993 and has affiliated members in 100 countries, including Malaysia. It has no links with NAM and operates independently.

It is an international non-governmental organisation comprising students and youth bodies which fight for gender equality, peace and disarmament, imperialism, colonialism and racism among others.

Bossoondoyal also said Nasyo felt that NAM should be restructured along the UN system by establishing agencies on areas like politics, economy, social, education and health.

"These are some of the basic requirements for the people. NAM will be more effective in serving its members with these changes," he said.

He also called for the setting up of the NAM pool of news agencies for dissemination of accurate news and information about its member countries.

Bossoondoyal said events in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq showed how the western media had provided one-sided stories and as such this pool would help to correct the imbalance.

"In the past we noticed less interest from NAM countries about the movement but today Dr Mahathir and Malaysia have changed that perception by infusing life into the movement," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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