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Mahathir-Brunei

"TERRITORIAL CLAIMS" FORMULA PRESENTED TO BRUNEI- DR MAHATHIR

PENANG, May 24 (Bernama) -- Malaysia today presented a formula on "territorial claims" to Brunei during talks between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah here.

"We also discussed territorial claims and a formula was presented to Brunei for consideration," Dr Mahathir said without elaborating on the territorial claims.

Asked whether the question of Limbang in Sarawak was also discussed, he said: "We only touched on Limbang."

He said a formula on Limbang had been presented to Brunei for quite sometime.

Asked whether a solution was in sight for the Limbang problem, Dr Mahathir said he hoped it could be resolved before his retirement in October this year.

The talks lasted over an hour and when asked on this, Dr Mahathir said: "It took quite a while because we talked about many things...we also talked about international issues...we are old friends".

Limbang, which borders Brunei and Sarawak, was once claimed by Brunei.

They also discussed efforts to further enhance ties between the countries.

"I am satisfied with the bilateral discussions held and I believe ties between the countries will be closer," Dr Mahathir told a news conference after the talks. The Sultan of Brunei arrived here yesterday for a three-day visit.

Asked on the lifting of the 13-year-old sanctions against Iraq, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was watching.

On whether the United States which invaded Iraq now had absolute control over the oil-rich state, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't know, we have to watch and see."

-- BERNAMA

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