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Syed Hamid-Thailand

THAI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR JOINT COMMISSION MEETING TOMORROW

PUTRAJAYA, March 7 (Bernama) -- The ninth Malaysia-Thailand Joint Commission meeting will continue tomorrow with the arrival of Thai Foreign Affairs minister Dr Surakiart Sathirathai today to participate at the ministerial level.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the meeting would focus on issues to enhance bilateral ties and cooperation in various aspects, especially the economic aspect.

He said Thailand had always stressed its interest in issues concerning the opening of Malaysia-Thai border and the free movement of goods between both sides.

"We will discuss matters of common interest, how various areas of cooperation are implementable," he told a media conference after a brief meeting with Surakiart at Wisma Putra here.

Syed Hamid said the meeting would also discuss Malaysia's preparation for the Information Technology and Infrastructure Workshop scheduled this June under the Asean Cooperation Dialogue programme.

He said Dr Surakiart congratulated Malaysia on the successful hosting of the 13th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit recently and pledged his support to make the movement vital.

On the emergency meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Doha, Qatar, earlier this week, Syed Hamid said he felt that the meeting had achieved its objective.

The meeting was successful because the member countries reached a decision without much debate but the issue was that the decision should be implemented not by countries outside West Asia but countries within the region, he said.

The OIC, in a communique after the meeting on Wednesday, rejected any military action against Iraq and asserted that the Islamic states would abstain from participating in any military actions targeting the security and territorial integrity of Iraq or any other Islamic country.

Syed Hamid said the meeting only discussed two issues -- the possibility of a war in Iraq and the deteriorating situation in Palestine.

He said it was not proper to discuss other issues at the meeting as these should be discussed at the OIC summit to be held in Kuala Lumpur in October.

Malaysia was represented by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the meeting.

-- BERNAMA

AZH AHH JK