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MAHATHIR-IRAQ

US AND BRITAIN SHOULD REBUILD IRAQ AFTER DESTROYING IT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 18 (Bernama) -- The United States and Britain should be the countries helping to restore Iraq's economy since they have destroyed it through their recent invasion, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"They know how to destroy Iraq, so they must know how to reconstruct it," he said in an exclusive interview with Bernama here today.

Malaysia, he said, would not be involved in restoring the Iraqi economy except for providing aid like food and medicines, and perhaps some business.

Dr Mahathir said that the war on Iraq was unwarranted.

"We don't believe that the killing of people would help solve problems," he said.

Asked on moves by the US to also take action against Syria for allegedly harbouring Saddam Hussein's loyalists, the Prime Minister said that this is their so-called war against terrorism.

"They cannot hit at the terrorists so they hit at all these Muslim countries," he said.

On media reports that Petronas president and chief executive officer, Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican, would be asked to help in the rebuilding of Iraq oil economy, Dr Mahathir said that this was only the opinion of two newspapers.

"Such an offer should only come from the United Nations, failing which, we don't want to even think of it," he said. -- BERNAMA

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