

21 JUL 2004

Abdullah-Reaction

A GOOD NEW START IN US-MALAYSIA RELATIONS, SAYS KIT SIANG

KUALA LUMPUR, July 21 (Bernama) -- DAP Chairman Lim Kit Siang today described the meeting between the Prime Minister and the US President in Washington yesterday as a good new start towards a more productive relationship between Malaysia and the United States.

He said the White House meeting between Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and George W. Bush paved the way for Malaysia as Chairman of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to convey directly the views of the two groupings on international issues to the highest U.S. authority.

"Although the U.S. and Malaysia may have different views on the Palestinian-Israel issue, they will be able to bring the issue into discussion," he told Bernama in a telephone interview from Penang.

During the meeting, Abdullah and Bush discussed various international and bilateral issues including fighting terrorism, the situation in Iraq, the Palestine-Israel issue and bilateral trade.

Lim hoped the improved relations between the U.S. and Malaysia would contribute towards enhancing trade between the two countries.

PAS Secretary-General Nasharudin Mat Isa said the U.S. must change its policy towards Muslims and Muslim nations if it wanted to improve its image in the eyes of the Muslim world.

"The US must not link terrorism to Muslims and the Muslim world as terrorism does not represent Muslims and the Muslim countries," he said.

Umno Vice President Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib believed Bush would have understood by now that there was continuity in Malaysia's administration after Abdullah had taken over from Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"They have now met and will understand each other better," he said, adding that a better understanding would contribute towards a more peaceful world.

He said the meeting benefited not only Malaysia but also the OIC

and
NAM member countries.
-- BERNAMA
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