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Syed Hamid: Resolution on Iraq sanctions has to be studied

PUTRAJAYA, Fri. - The wording of the resolution to lift the sanctions on Iraq which will be submitted by the US and its allies to the United Nations, has to be studied before being adopted, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

He said the resolution should not be for the sake of legalising the unilateral action in invading Iraq.

"In principle, Malaysia supports the removal of the sanctions but in the present context, it is important that we look at the exact wording of the resolution and what needs to be done.

"The most important thing is that there should be no weapons of mass destruction, which is one of the pre-conditions for lifting the sanctions.

"The UN weapons inspectors should be allowed to verify that, and then it would be a multilateral decision. We don't have any problems with that," he said after launching a book, *A Diplomat Arrives in Washington* authored by Dr Fauziah Mohamad Taib, who wrote of her experience during her five-year stint since 1998 as deputy ambassador to Washington. She has since been appointed High Commissioner to Fiji.

Syed Hamid said there should be a conditionality to make sure that the sanction lifted would benefit the Iraqis.

He was commenting on Washington's announcement yesterday on the US' intention to introduce the resolution, and calling on other countries to support the move.

President George W. Bush said the US, Britain and Spain, intend to introduce a resolution in the UN to end the economic sanctions.

On the visit of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the G8 meeting in France next month in his capacity as Malaysian Prime Minister instead of Non-Aligned Movement chairman, Syed Hamid said the hosts wanted to invite one leader of great reputation from the developing countries.

He said Dr Mahathir could voice Malaysia's as well as developing countries' views.

On the proposal to make the Media Malaysia a permanent feature, Syed Hamid said he welcomed the move but added that it would be discussed at the Cabinet. He said it was important to get the Malaysian perspective in any situation.