

23/04/2003

#### Paris NAM talks on Iraq

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KOTA BARU, Tues. - Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar will meet his Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) counterparts from South Africa and Cuba in Paris on May 2 to discuss actions needed to be taken following the attack and occupation of Iraq by the United States and its allies.

Syed Hamid said the "troika" - comprising the present NAM chairman, past chairman and future chairman - has been given the mandate to discuss major issues involving the movement, of which Iraq is a member.

Malaysia is the present chairman of NAM, South Africa the past chairman while Cuba is the in-coming chairman.

"We have to take some form of measure and the voices of member countries must be heard in order the movement remains relevant.

"The situation now is critical ...with the many new approaches that will be taken to handle the occupation and post-Saddam Hussein issues," he said.

Syed Hamid was speaking to the Press after attending an Iraq humanitarian gathering at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Salor near here last night. Also present were Kelantan Umno chairman Datuk Mustapa Mohamed and Pasir Mas Umno division chief Datuk Ibrahim Ali.

The Foreign Minister said the troika had been given the mandate as it is difficult to bring together all NAM members.

He said decisions made at the Paris meeting will be conveyed to NAM member countries.

"We will also be getting 20 inputs among Third World countries as part of our effort in promoting global peace," he said.

Syed Hamid also said German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Russian President Vladimir Putin were expected to visit Malaysia soon to repay the visits made earlier by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Besides discussion on two-way relations including trade and investment, the leaders will also touch on current political developments, especially involving Iraq," he said.