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Only two Asean countries support US-led war on Iraq

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Singapore's views on the US-led war on Iraq do not represent those of other Asean countries that have taken an opposing stand.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the island republic was entitled to its views, but Malaysia would continue to oppose such an action.

"With the exception of Singapore and the Philippines, all the other Asean countries are united in their views of the war in Iraq," he said at a Press conference after receiving a farewell call from Singapore's outgoing armed forces chief Lt-Gen Lim Chuan Poh at the ministry today.

Najib was asked to comment on a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who expressed regret yesterday that Singapore had supported the war.

Berita Harian reported today that Singapore had even provided facilities to the United States for its invasion of Iraq, which is also a bid to boost security in view of terrorist attacks.

Prior to this, its Defence Minister, Tony Tan, was quoted as saying that the risk of his country being struck by terrorists was even greater as Singapore had openly supported the US-led war.

Najib said the risk was minimal as Singapore was a small country.

"It can easily monitor its internal security," he said.