

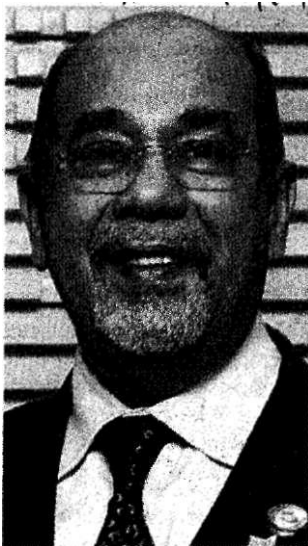
Put pressure on N. Korea, Russia and China urged

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia is banking on the "good offices" of China and Russia to stop North Korea from continuing with its nuclear activities and jumpstart the stalled six-party talks to find a peaceful resolution.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said even though North Korea has already carried out its nuclear test, it should not deter efforts for negotiations.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with European Union Commissioner for External Affairs Benita Ferrero Waldner at his officer here yesterday, Syed Hamid said Malaysia hoped that North Korea would not carry out actions that could jeopardise the long-term solution to the Korean peninsula issue and the stability of the region.

Asked if Malaysia would propose to the United Nations that action be taken against the reclusive communist state, Syed Hamid said its people had suffered enough.



Syed Hamid: 'If everyone talks about self-preservation through nuclear power, the world will be destroyed in no time'

He added that military action would not help solve the crisis.

He said North Korea's excuse for carrying out the test was that financial sanctions had

been imposed on the country.

Syed Hamid said it felt the need and right to protect itself, even if it meant using nuclear means.

"If everyone talks about self-preservation through nuclear means, the world will be destroyed in no time. That is why Malaysia feels the urgent need to resuscitate the six-party talks," he said.

He added that Malaysia sympathised with North Korea but the only way ahead was to resume dialogue.

Syed Hamid said the Asean Foreign Ministers' meeting in Kuala Lumpur in July was an "opportunity missed" as all members of the six-party talks - North Korea, South Korea, China, Russia, Japan and the United States - were present but did not meet on the North Korean nuclear issue.

He said there was no need for Wisma Putra to call the North Korean envoy over the nuclear test because Malaysia was not a member of the talks.