

# PM hails US response on Iran

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**CYBERJAYA:** Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi welcomed the move by the United States to begin negotiations with Iran over its nuclear enrichment programme.

The Prime Minister said the recent statement by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that Washington was ready to join France, Germany and Britain in negotiations with Iran indicated a positive change in attitude.

"This diplomatic approach should be the way to resolve problems with Iran, and I am

sure the Iranians welcome it, too," he told reporters after launching the new wing for the DHL IT services centre here yesterday.

Abdullah had, in a talk with US President George Bush early this month, indicated that Malaysia, which is chairman of both the Non-Aligned Movement and Organisation of Islamic Conference, had no objections to Iran using nuclear power for peaceful means.

He had also told Bush that a diplomatic approach was better than the use of force.

Abdullah said any condition imposed on talks between the United States and Iran should be discussed and agreed to by both sides.

"The important thing is that they are ready to talk," he said, adding that the United States' willingness to negotiate was also an improvement in relations between the two countries.

"You must remember that they have not met at the negotiation table for a long time, so it's a good move. People feel happier," he said.