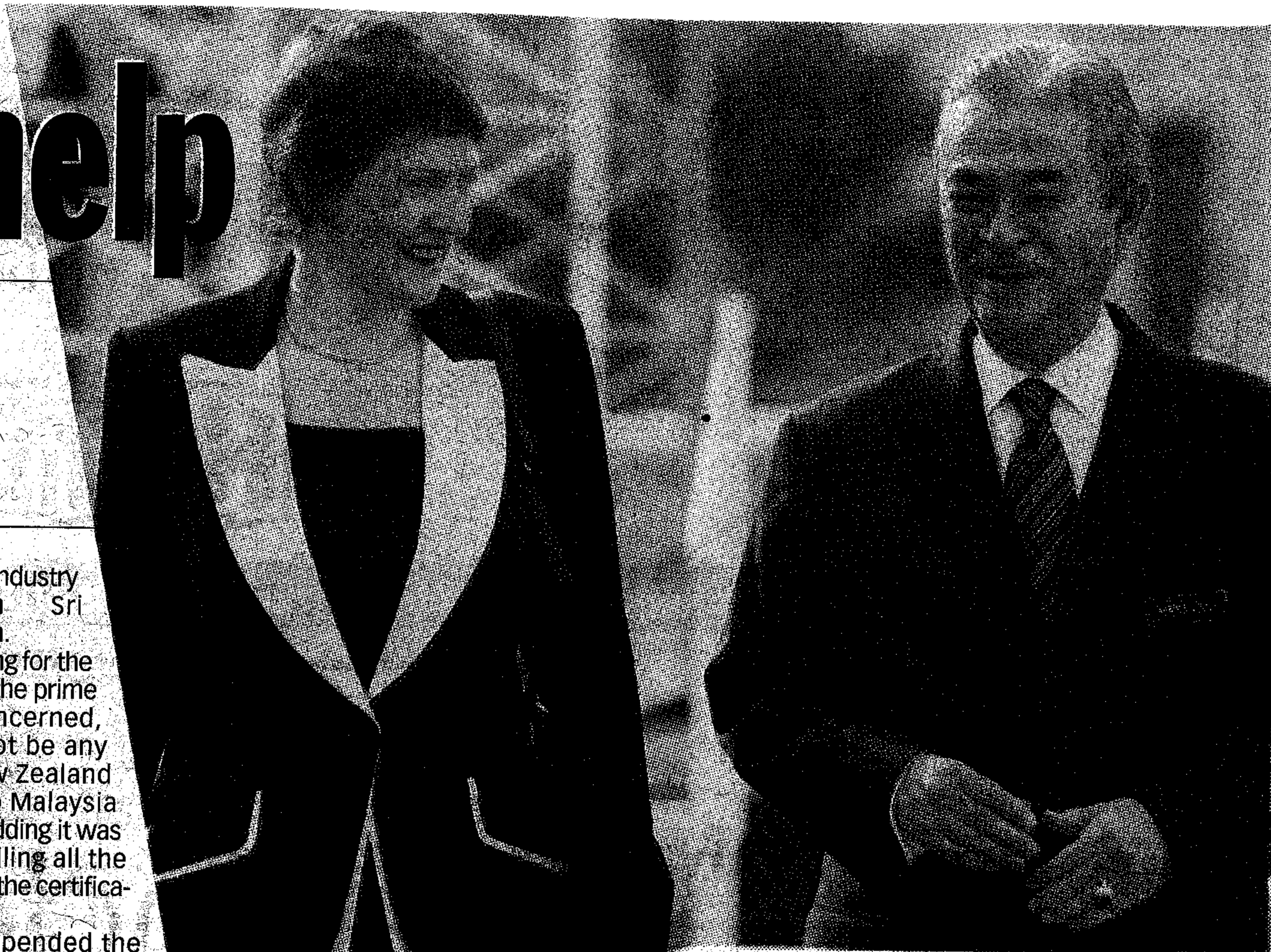


THE SUN

NZ seeks our help to fight terror

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Abdullah walks alongside Clark during the official welcoming ceremony in Putrajaya yesterday.

PUTRAJAYA: New Zealand is seeking Malaysia's cooperation through the exchange of information and experience in efforts to fight terrorism.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the police forces of both countries would work together on counter-terrorism and anti-terrorism.

He said this was expressed by New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark during her meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at his office yesterday.

Clark, who arrived in Malaysia on Saturday, is here on an official two-day visit.

"This is a police-to-police matter. Our high commissioner will liaise with our police. It is up to them to discuss details and what it entails," Syed Hamid told reporters after the meeting with the New Zealand delegation.

"On the non-operational side, we have collaborated with them very well through our South-east Asia Centre for Counter-Terrorism.

"But they want us to sign the memorandum of understanding where they can exchange experience and information better in a more coordinated way."

The meeting also discussed the problem New Zealand faced with Malaysia's *halal* certification.

Syed Hamid said Clark had asked Malaysia to look into lifting a suspension of meat imports from New Zealand before this year's Hari Raya Aidilfitri in October.

He said a team of *halal* inspectors from the Islamic Development Department of Malaysia and the Veterinary Services Department had made a visit to New Zealand in April, after a visit by Agriculture

and Agro-based Industry Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"We are waiting for the report. As far as the prime minister is concerned, there should not be any problem of New Zealand meat coming to Malaysia again," he said, adding it was a matter of fulfilling all the requirements for the certification.

Malaysia suspended the import of meat from New Zealand in 2005 due to the use of thoracic sticking and electric immobilisation by abattoirs during the slaughter process, which are not deemed to be *halal* procedures approved by Malaysia.

New Zealand, a major exporter of *halal* meat to Malaysia, had claimed it was not formally notified of the new standards and wanted a clear and transparent process to be established.

Among other bilateral issues raised, Syed Hamid said New Zealand wanted to see if Malaysia can look into a free trade agreement between the two countries and broaden collaboration in education. There are currently about 2,000 Malaysians study-

ing in New Zealand.

On another matter, asked if Malaysia will accede to the International Criminal Court (ICC), Syed Hamid said the government would need to look into the details of such a commitment carefully.

In the meantime, he said, it is more important that leaders accused of wrongdoing or corruption be "judged by their own people".

He said this would be easier to tackle if a state had a democratic system, without which problems such as genocide and mass killing would arise.

In a press statement recently, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court - an international network of non-governmental organisations - urged the Malaysian government to accede to the Rome Statute, which is the founding treaty of the ICC. (See *speak up!* on Page 20)

It said the ICC is the first international court capable of trying individuals accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The coalition said it would be a significant step for Malaysia, which sits on the United Nations Human Rights Committee, to ratify the statute.

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wreak
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Man grabs Porsche from showroom for spin

BUKIT MERTAJAM: A man drove off with a RM963,000 two-door Porsche 911 Targa 4 from a showroom only to abandon it 30 minutes later.

Seberang Prai Tengah police chief ACP Anil Shah Abdullah said yesterday the man had walked into the Naza showroom at the Juru Autocity at 1:50pm.

He looked around the showroom for a while before asking for the key to the car.

"He started the car and to the shock of the salespeople at the showroom, drove off with the car after crashing through the glass door."

"However, we found the car abandoned half an hour later at the Prai Industrial Estate," he said.

Anil said no arrest has been made by the police so far.

