

# Najib: No apology made over alleged border violations

NST- 30/3/2007



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak (right) and Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein in discussion after the Umno supreme council meeting yesterday.

**KUALALUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Najib Razak has denied apologising to Indonesia for alleged border violations by the Malaysian military off Kalimantan.

"Whatever it is, it didn't happen. I myself did not apologise to the Indonesian minister of defence," Najib, who is defence minister, told reporters after an Umno supreme council meeting here yesterday.

Indonesian newspapers reported Indonesian Defence Minister Ju-

wono Sudarsono on Wednesday as saying that Malaysia had apologised after its warships and planes crossed into Indonesian waters earlier this month.

They allegedly made the encroachment near the disputed Ambalat oil exploration block off Borneo.

"The Malaysian defence minister has expressed his apologies to me on the recent Ambalat incident and promised to warn his subordi-

nates," Juwono was quoted as saying.

Najib said he did speak to Juwono at an informal Asean defence ministers' meeting in Bali last week.

"I said we must have an understanding to avoid any undesirable incidents and he agreed that we should hold fast to the rules of engagement at the military leadership level as well as on the ground," the deputy prime minister said.

In the case of Ambalat, both sides had agreed that their naval and other commanders must behave maturely, he said.

Najib added that both countries had noted that bilateral ties were "very good".

"So there's no reason that matters such as Ambalat cannot be discussed between two countries that have good relations."

"That was all. So the question of an apology does not arise."