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Malaysia disagrees with US terror label on Iran

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MALAYSIA does not agree with the United States labelling Iran as the "world's leading sponsor of terror", the prime minister said.

"That statement (by President George W. Bush) obviously will not be received well by Muslims," said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"We, too, do not agree," he told Malaysian media on Monday night. Also present was Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

Abdullah was commenting on the president's comments in Abu Dhabi on Sunday, when the president had also asked allies to join the US in confronting Iran "before it is too late".

It was reported that top Iranian offi-

cial heaped scorn on the president's visit to the Middle East and accused Bush of fomenting tension in the region.

Earlier, Abdullah had a busy afternoon with several high-profile meetings.

He met Organisation of the Islamic Conference secretary-general Professor Ekmelleddin Ihsanoglu and discussed preparations for the upcoming 11th Session of the Islamic Summit in Senegal in March.

Later, he exchanged views with the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, Javier Solana, on the situations in Darfur and Palestine.