



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at a high-tea gathering with Malaysians in Tokyo yesterday, after the close of the Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit, **BERNAMA** PIX

Japan security aid not meant to counter China'

TOKYO: Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said the security assistance from Japan to Malaysia was unrelated to tensions in the South China Sea.

He was commenting on a Reuters report which stated that Japan and Malaysia signed a security assistance deal at the Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit to "seek to counter an increasingly assertive China".

The report said the security assistance included a grant of ¥400 million to boost Malaysia's maritime security.

Speaking at a high-tea event organised by the Malaysian govern-

ment for Malaysians here, Mohamad said some media reports regarding the deal were untrue.

"The South China Sea threats are not at all why we asked and received security assistance from Japan. Some news portals have reported that we asked for assistance to neutralise certain threats in the region. That is just not true," he said.

Mohamad said Malaysia and Japan had good bilateral ties.

"Japan is helping us with the security assistance grant aid because we have good ties with them.

"They're for standard surveil-



Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan exchanging documents with his Japanese counterpart, Yoko Kamikawa, after signing a security assistance deal in Tokyo on Saturday. Witnessing the event are Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

lance and monitoring of our seas.

"We're not preparing for war.

"We are just patrolling our seas and we asked for Japan to help and they did.

"I asked for drones, they gave

us drones," he said.

Mohamad said drones could monitor a larger area than conventional patrol craft.

The three-day summit ended yesterday.