

Deputy Prime Minister to Visit US, Chairs Debate At UNSC in New York

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From Khairdzir Md Yunus

NEW YORK, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi will arrive here Monday (Aug 22) for a five-day working visit to the United States where he will also chair a debate at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Tuesday.

According to a Malaysian official, Dr Ahmad Zahid, who is also Home Minister will chair the debate on "Challenges in addressing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, related materials, equipment and technology to non-state actors" at the United Nations Headquarters here.

It is part of his working visit to the United States from Aug 22 to 27.

The Security Council consists of fifteen members where the major powers - Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China and the United States - serve as the body's five permanent members.

These permanent members can veto any substantive Security Council resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or candidates for the Secretary-General's post whereas the 10 non-permanent members were elected on a regional basis to serve two-year terms.

Leadership of the UNSC is rotated among the five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members in alphabetical order. Malaysia which is one of the new non-permanent members elected to the UN Security Council won one of the five non-permanent seats on the UN Security Council for two-year mandates commencing on Jan 1 last year during the 2014 United Nations Security Council election held on Oct 16, 2014 at the UN Headquarters in New York City.

The presidency of the Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month and Malaysia is holding the rotating presidency of the UNSC for this month.

Malaysia's term as a non-permanent member of the UNSC will end on Dec 31.

This will be Zahid's third official visit to the US since he was appointed deputy prime minister in July last year.

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