

# N.Korea must not be an Iraq

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## Syed Hamid: Don't make same mistakes

**KOTA TINGGI:** Malaysia is of the opinion that military action is not the best way to solve problems in countries that want to develop their nuclear resources.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the choice of leadership in a country was determined by its own people and not through foreign interference.

"We don't want the mistakes made in Iraq to be repeated in North Korea," he told reporters here after handing over festive goodies for Deepavali and Hari Raya at Kampung Makam here yesterday.

He added that the invasion of Iraq in 2003 by superpowers was not to find weapons of mass destruction, but to change the leadership in that country.

He hoped the United Nations and global leaders would also pay attention to the uranium

because of its claimed nuclear test.

Syed Hamid said the United Nations needed to handle the issue intelligently to avoid military conflict that would have a negative impact on the North Korean people.

He said negotiations was the best way to handle the issue and that the nuclear tests had not affected Malaysia's bilateral ties with North Korea.

He also said Malaysia was ready to help with the unrest in southern Thailand if the newly formed government requested assistance.

Since former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra was overthrown in a military coup recently, he said there had been no negotiations between the two countries over the issue.

"This is an internal issue in Thailand that needs to be sorted out by its own government," he added.

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enrichment issue in Iran.

He was commenting on the United States proposed resolution that would impose sanctions - but no military measures - against North Korea