

COMMENT

Malaysia

1969

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 25 (BERNAMA) -- THE UNITED STATES, BY ASKING FRIENDLY POWERS NOT TO SELL SOPHISTICATED FIGHTER PLANES TO MALAYSIA, HAS +COMPLETELY FAILED+ TO APPRECIATE MALAYSIA'S DEFENCE NEEDS AND INTENTION. THE MALAYSIAN AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY ORGANISATION SAID TODAY.

+MALAYSIA CAN HARDLY BE REGARDED AS EVEN A TINY POWER IN TERMS OF MILITARY CAPACITY, UNLIKE THE PHILIPPINES WHICH HAS AN ARMY THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF MALAYSIA'S AND EQUIPPED FOR YEARS WITH AMERICAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND HARDWARE,+ THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISATION, DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMED, SAID.

+MALAYSIA IS AT PRESENT COMPLETELY EXPOSED TO ANY POWER WHICH CARES TO BULLY IT,+ HE ADDED.

DR. MAHATHIR WAS COMMENTING ON A REPORT FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD REQUEST BRITAIN AND FRANCE TO DISSUADE MALAYSIA FROM BUYING SOPHISTICATED FIGHTER PLANES.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE U.S. SEEMED NOT TO HAVE LEARNED FROM ITS PAST +FOREIGN POLICY BLUNDERS OF INTERFERENCE AND ARROGANCE.+ -- BERNAMA MORE 1713

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HE SAID THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD ALL-ALONG BEEN ARMING THE PHILIPPINES WITH SAM MISSILES AND SUPERSONIC JETS AND FOR IT TO +INSINUATE+ THAT OTHER COUNTRIES COULD NOT DO THE SAME FOR MALAYSIA WAS +THE LIMIT OF AMERICAN BULLYING.+

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE UNITED STATES, BY TRYING TO GET OTHER COUNTRIES NOT TO SELL FIGHTER JETS TO MALAYSIA, MIGHT IN FACT BRING ABOUT THE VERY ARMS RACE WHICH IT WOULD LIKE TO AVOID IN THE REGION.

DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THAT THE U.S. MOVE WAS ONLY THE RESULT OF +WRONG ADVICE+ IN THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION AND WOULD NOT REPRESENT THE POLICY OF PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON'S ADMINISTRATION. - BERNAMA 1717

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