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SINGAPORE, Thurs. —

Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, a former Umno leader, has described the five-power defence pact as worse than a "worthless scrap of paper" for Malaysia.

"Its existence serves only to classify Russia and China as potential enemies of Malaysia."

"Yet these same countries are being asked by Malaysia to guarantee its future," he said in reference to Malaysia's call to Russia, America and China to guarantee neutrality in South-east Asia.

Warfare

Dr. Mahathir's views were given at the recent seminar in Singapore on "Trends in Malaysia" organised by the Institute of South-east Asian Studies.

In his paper on "Trends in foreign policy and regionalism" — released today — he said the worst part of the defence agreement was its complete inability to tackle the type of situation it was meant to deal with.

"It is not meant for suppressing the type of guerilla warfare that Malaysian Chinese rebels on the Thai-Malaysian border and in Sarawak are fomenting."

Remote

The pact was said to be meant for defence in case of open aggression. Interpretation of aggression was left to the donor country.

"The defence treaty will only be activated in case of open aggression. The chances of this happening is rather remote."

It was unlikely that either China or Russia would launch an open war against Malaysia, he said.

A defence treaty could only be conceived when there was some idea of a common enemy. The impression was that Malaysia considered China and, possibly Russia, potential enemies of the five powers.