

# Good thing we're not famous: Dr M

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**DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad drew laughter from American businessmen** who were guests at a luncheon when he said that not being known in the USA was a good thing.

"It means that we are peaceful and stable. So I am not unduly worried about Malaysia not being famous although a lot of other Malaysians feel hurt when they are asked whether Malaysia is in China or Africa," he said drawing applause from the businessmen.

It sufficed that the business community knew Malaysia.

The Prime Minister drew applause and laughter during the beginning of his speech

after he was introduced by six-footer William E. Tucker, president of the Far East America Council of Commerce and Industry.

Datuk Seri Mahathir remarked as he stood in front of the tall rostrum and pulled down the microphone to the level of his chin, "evidently they built this rostrum for Texans."

He said everyone knew Thailand because of The King **And I**; Singapore because Bob Hope and Bing Crosby took **The Road To Singapore**; Indonesia because the Americans had trouble with Sukarno and the Philippines because Americans once ruled it.

But Malaysia was a new country and had **not done** those things so loved by the sensationalistic Western Press.

"Furthermore, head hunting went out of fashion in the early part of this century and the biggest tree is no longer reserved for the Prime Minister as his house," he added.

However, there was a marked silence in the hall when the **Prime Minister** began to hit out at the protectionist policies of Europeans and the quotas of Americans.