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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 22⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- THE REJECTION BY A UNITED STATES CONGRESS SUB-COMMITTEE OF A PROPOSAL BY PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN TO OFFER US\$4 MILLION (M\$10 MILLION) IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MALAYSIA DOES NOT AFFECT THE COUNTRY'S DEFENCE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

+THIS IS BECAUSE THE ASSISTANCE ONLY COVERS TRAINING AND NOT DEFENCE EQUIPMENT,+ HE TOLD BERNAMA AFTER OPENING THE UMNO FEDERAL TERRITORY DIVISION DELEGATES CONFERENCE HERE.

HE WAS COMMENTING ON A RECENT FOREIGN AGENCY REPORT WHICH DISCLOSED THE CONTENTS OF A DRAFT BY THE US CONGRESSIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS IN TURNING DOWN THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE WHICH HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION FOR MALAYSIA.

THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, ENCIK STEPHEN SOLARZ, WAS REPORTED TO HAVE CRITICISED MALAYSIA AND SAID THE ANTI-ZIONIST ACTIONS OF THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WERE AN EMBARRASSMENT. -- MORE
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EVEN THOUGH HE DID NOT GIVE AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID SUCH ACTIONS HAD REDUCED SYMPATHY TOWARDS MALAYSIA'S NEEDS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE STATEMENT BY STEPHEN SOLARSZ REFLECTED +HIS VIEWS ONLY+.

+IF NOT, THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HAVE SENT ITS AIR FORCE PLANES TO BE REPAIRED BY AIROD SDN BHD,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CLARIFIED THAT THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS FOR MILITARY TRAINING.

+IT WILL NOT AFFECT THE COUNTRY AS THE PREVIOUS ALLOCATIONS HAVE YET TO BE EXHAUSTED,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA
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