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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 28 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ACCUSED THE US OF +ECONOMIC ARM-TWISTING+ FOLLOWING MOVE BY THE CONGRESS TO STOP MILITARY GRANT TO MALAYSIA.

IT SHOWS THAT THE US HAS NEVER HESITATE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST SMALLER COUNTRIES, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CLOSING THE 44TH WORLD AMATEUR BODYBUILDING CHAMPIONSHIPS AT PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE (PWTC) HERE.

HE WAS COMMENTING ON REPORT THAT THE US CONGRESS WANTED TO STOP ITS US\$1 MILLION (M\$2.7 MILLION) MILITARY TRAINING TO MALAYSIA PURPORTEDLY FOR +REFUSING ASYLUM TO REFUGEES FLEEING VIETNAM.+

IN THIS CONNECTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE REGRETTED THAT NO ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE US AGAINST ANOTHER +COUNTRY+ FOR COMMITTING A MUCH WORSE ACT SUCH AS KILLING 21 PALESTINIANS.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THE US HAD IN THE PAST ALSO REFUSED ENTRY TO PEOPLE FROM MEXICO AND HAITI, HE SAID. -- MORE.

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+BUT BECAUSE THEY (US) ARE MIGHTY AND WE ARE WEAK, THEY DO NOT HESITATE TO ACT AGAINST US AS THE SAYING GOES MIGHT IS RIGHT,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AS FAR AS MALAYSIA WAS CONCERNED, THE AMOUNT DID NOT MATTER MUCH COMPARED TO KNOWLEDGE IMPARTED UNDER THE MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMME.

+IF THEY DON'T WANT TO GIVE, WELL.....,+ HE SAID.

DURING THE FUNCTION, THE PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED +DISTINGUISH SERVICE AWARD+ FROM INTERNATIONAL BODYBUILDING FEDERATION PRESIDENT BEN WEIDER FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SPORTS.

SOME 185 BODYBUILDERS FROM 70 COUNTRIES TOOK PART IN THE FIVE-DAY CHAMPIONSHIPS. -- BERNAMA.

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