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PORT KLANG, March 12 (Bernama) — Malaysia is prepared to discuss with fellow Asean member countries about American military bases in the Philippines, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

However, Malaysia was steadfastly against countries in the region being used as military bases except under the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA), he said.

+We can discuss about it. But our policy is we are against the Philippines being used as a military base for anyone other than those in the Five Power Defence Arrangement, + he told reporters here.

The FPDA comprised the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was commenting on a news report that Philippine Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos had asked Asean countries to meet and discuss about American military bases in his country.

The report quoted Encik Ramos as saying that Asean nations should collectively decide whether to reduce or completely do away with American military presence in the region.— Bernama

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