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Repetition correcting second and third paras

LEAD Mahathir-base (replaces earlier item) '''

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

However, Malaysia's stand was that it did not want to be a military base for any parties, he said.

Malaysia's defence involvement was only in the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FDPA), he said. FDPA comprised Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia.

+We can discuss it. But we are not going to be a base for anyone, + he said commenting on a news report that Philippine Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos had asked Asean countries to discuss American military bases in his country.

Encik Ramos had said Asean nations should collectively share the burden of running such bases and decide to reduce or do away with American military presence in the region.-- Bernama

♥12/03/17-26MST