

Dr M: We can talk about US bases

PORT KLANG, Tues. — Malaysia is prepared to discuss the question of American military bases in the Philippines with its Asean partners, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We can discuss it. But we are not going to be a base for anyone," the Prime Minister said when com-

menting on a news report that Philippine Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos had asked Asean countries to discuss the position of the American military bases in his country.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysia's stand was that it did not want to be a military base for any party.

He said Malaysia's defence in-

volvement was only under the Five-Power Defence Arrangement (comprising Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia).

Mr Ramos had said that Asean should share the burden of hosting the facilities and decide whether US military presence in the region be reduced or eliminated.