

CNS6591

UGE 06-01 00211 EA249

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Attention editors: Correction '''

In item E395, slugged +Mahathir-EAEC+, please read third para as... he told reporters after opening..

U.S' REJECTION OF EAEC A SHOW OF DISRESPECT, SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir - EAEC ''''

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- The United States' rejection of the East Asia Economic Caucus ~~shows its disrespect for the~~ rights of other nations, Prime Minister ~~Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad~~ said today.

He said: + That country will not just stop there. It may resort to certain form of action and this means violating the concept of a free and independent nation.+

+If the U.S objects to the EAEC concept mooted by Malaysia, it should decide so on its own accord and not force other countries to back its decision,+ he told reporters after opening a programme on Project Appraisal and Risk Analysis Management at the Bank Negara auditorium here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he would raise the issue at the Asean Summit in Singapore on Jan 27.

He was commenting on U.S President George Bush's statement during his visit to Singapore last Saturday that the United States was not in favour of the EAEC.-- more

▼06/01/14-32MST

CNS6552

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Mahathir - EAEC 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur ''''

The Prime Minister said Singapore's move to allow the U.S relocate the American military logistics facility from Manila to the republic was consistent with Singapore's earlier explanation *on* the matter to Asean member countries.

+Singapore only agrees to provide facilities for repair and servicing of U.S navy ships and not allow it to set up a new naval base there,+ he said.

As such the U.S would only deploy to Singapore personnel required for that kind of duty and not transfer the entire naval command from Manila, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he did not see the **necessity** for an American military base in the region.

The three-week programme is organised by the Harvard Club of Malaysia, Institute of Bankers Malaysia and the Harvard Institute of International Development. -- Bernama

▼06/01/13-16MST