

Region does not need US military base

**Reports by
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LANGKAWI, Sun. — Southeast Asia does not need a United States military base because nations in the region do not feel threatened by others, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We don't feel there is a need for such a base in Southeast Asia because we don't feel threatened by anyone, including China and Japan," the Prime Minister said.

He stressed that the

Southeast Asian nations believed that any disputes among themselves should be settled through discussion.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked by reporters to comment on the United States' intention to set up a military base in Southeast Asia.

It was reported that both Thailand and Indonesia had turned down the American request.

The Prime Minister had earlier officiated the ground-breaking ceremony of Koperasi Usaha Bersatu (M) Berhad's RM30 million tourism and hotel school at Teluk Baru here.

Dr Mahathir said member

nations should not suspect that certain countries could become their potential enemy because such prejudice would create tension in the region.

"Therefore, we do not want to talk about it."

"There should not be unnecessary tension as a result of our attitude of becoming friendly to certain countries only," he said.

"By assuming a certain country is our potential enemy, we have already made an enemy of that country."

"This could lead to both countries to start preparations for a war," he said, adding that there were no enemies in Southeast Asia.