

Meeting of all political parties to protest nuke tests

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Umno will organise a meeting of all political parties in the country to protest against France's nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today a memorandum to state Malaysia's position on the issue would be presented for approval by the parties at the meeting.

He said all parties irrespective of their political affiliation would be invited to attend the meeting, to be held as soon as possible.

"We hope the meeting will achieve a consensus among the parties on their stand towards (France's) nuclear tests," he told reporters after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting.

Dr Mahathir said this was to state the position of the Government and other political parties outside the Government.

Malaysia was happy that its position on the nuclear tests at the United Nations had received support, he added.

Dr Mahathir said, however, it was not possible to hold a Parliamentary-level meeting as proposed by the DAP since not all political parties have representatives in the House.

Replying to another question, he said Malaysia was against all nuclear tests including those conducted by China.

"Since China did it in China, France should do it under the Eiffel Tower," he said.

Dr Mahathir also commented on a newspaper report where the former United States Secretary of State James A. Baker III was quoted as saying the US was

opposed to the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus and tried its best to "kill it".

In his book entitled *The Politics of Diplomacy*, Baker said Dr Mahathir was not seen as "particularly" pro-American and was likely to cause mischief if crossed. (Please see report on Page 17.)

Baker also admitted to being responsible for the cool response to the EAEC from South Korea by telling that it was Americans, and not Malaysians, who had shed blood for the country 40 years ago.

"It is not a fair statement. At the time when Americans shed blood for South Korea, we were still under the British rule and they (British) did not send us.

"If the British were to send us there, I would have shed blood for South Korea, so it is not my fault," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Baker's view that he was anti-American was not true.

"Baker does not like me and said I am anti-American. I like America and just came back from there. There are many Americans here, who have investments and are nice people.

"But like all other people, some are nice some are not. Baker is in the part of the least nice of all," he said.

On whether he would attend the Apec meeting in Osaka next month, Dr Mahathir said he had yet to make a decision.

"We have to know what it is that they are going to discuss...like on whether all resolutions must first be agreed upon by officials, followed by the ministers and leaders. If we are satisfied, we will attend."

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Dr Mahathir Mohamad