

20 MAR 1996

Internet

MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE CONCERNED ABOUT BAD MATERIALS ON INTERNET

KUALA LUMPUR, March 20 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Singapore are concerned about the distribution of bad materials on the Internet, the international computer network system which is gaining widespread popularity among computer users in both countries.

Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tony Tan said today the spread of information technology, including Internet, were some of the issues he discussed with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Speaking to reporters after calling on Dr Mahathir at the Prime Minister's Department here, he said: "While such technology is very useful, and both nations will not wish to restrict access to it, we have to be concerned about pornography and other undesirable materials being spread on the Internet.

"Perhaps, this is something which is a subject for discussion for Malaysia and Singapore and even among the Asean countries."

Dr Tan and Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, who was also present, briefed the Dr Mahathir on the outcome of yesterday's Malaysia-Singapore Defence Forum and areas of cooperation between the defence establishments of the two countries.

Both countries have agreed in principal to embark on a joint venture project to produce munitions beginning with the 12.7mm general purpose machinegun ammunition.

Dr Tan, who is also Defence Minister, arrived here yesterday for a three-day official visit for talks with senior Malaysian government and defence officials.

Besides the Defence Forum meeting and areas of bilateral defence cooperation, Dr Tan said, a number of other issues relevant to the two countries were also discussed.

These included the proposed rail link (between Singapore and Malaysia to southern China via Thailand and Laos) and the long-term supply of water to Singapore, he added. -- BERNAMA

MGM LDB