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M'SIA WILL STUDY U.S. ALLEGATIONS, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 April (Bernama) -- Malaysia will study the allegations levelled at it by the United States in its National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers in that it imposed barriers against US firms, said prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The report, which was released in Washington on Monday, listed 42 countries (including Malaysia) for the most onerous trade barriers.

"We need to study the barriers that we impose and the trade barriers which the United States impose on Malaysia," he told reporters after bidding farewell to the prime minister of Papua New Guinea, Sir Julius Chan, and Lady Stella Chan who were en route to Sarawak in their current visit to Malaysia.

In commenting on the report, Dr Mahathir said, "If we have barriers, we are not sure whether the United States will take action or not. If it took no action, then it is all right. ("Kalau kita ada sekatan, kita tidak tahu sama ada mereka (Amerika) akan ambil tindakan atau tidak. Kalau dia tidak ambil tindakan, tak mengapalah dia nak kata apa pun.)

"But if the United States took action, then we also have to take action (Jikalau dia ambil tindakan kita pun kena ambil tindakan jugalah)."

The "Foreign Trade Barriers" for 1996 filed the same complaints on Malaysia as it did last year, but with one added item -- Malaysia's ban on alcohol advertising on the country's television and radio networks. --

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