

30 JUL 1997

ALBRIGHT ON DR MAHATHIR

SINGAPORE, July 30 (Bernama) -- US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has views that are stated rather harshly which are not reflective of the general tenor of the younger leadership of the ASEAN countries.

The Straits Times today quoted Albright as saying: "Dr Mahathir is a case of his own. He has a perspective reflective of his generation but not of the other leaders I met".

"But meeting with Senior Minister Lee (Kuan Yew), who is obviously one of the older generation in the region, I found he has the most modern and most strategic vision of anyone I've met for a long time."

The paper said Albright's views were made in response to a question about Dr Mahathir's anti-US stance at the just concluded ASEAN meetings in Malaysia.

Albright is in Singapore for a two-day visit after attending the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in Malaysia.

The Straits Times said it was present at a briefing given by Albright to Washington-based journalists who had accompanied her on her trip to the region.

-- BERNAMA

THG SJ