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BN-Protest

BN YOUTH HANDS PROTEST NOTE TO US EMBASSY

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 13 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) Youth today handed a protest note to the US Embassy on the draft resolution by 27 US congressmen calling on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to apologise over his alleged "anti-American and anti-semitic" remarks or resign as prime minister.

The note was handed over by a six-member BN youth delegation led by its chairman Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi to the Counsellor of Political Affairs Jeffrey J. Lunstead in a 30-minute meeting with him.

Zahid was accompanied by Umno Youth assistant secretary Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, MIC Youth secretary Datuk Dr Nelson Renganathan, Gerakan Youth secretary Lam Weng Keong, MCA Youth vice-chairman Hoo Seong Chan and PPP youth leader R.O Paramasipan.

Earlier, they joined some 100 BN Youth members in a peaceful demonstration outside the embassy to voice their protest against the congressmen's action.

Speaking to reporters after handing over the note, Ahmad Zahid said a similar note would be sent to all the congressmen via E-Mail.

He said the youth would ask the congressmen not to entertain the resolution initiated by Robert Wexler (Democrat-Florida) and reject its tabling at the next congress sitting (expected in February next year).

He said though the resolution was still at the draft stage and not the stand of the US government, the youth regretted on the attempts by outsiders to interfere in Malaysia's leadership matters.

The draft resolution wants Dr Mahathir to apologise or resign over his alleged statement of a Jewish conspiracy behind the currency crisis in Southeast Asia.

Dr Mahathir had clarified that he did not make such allegations.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday that it was ridiculous, unwise, inappropriate and undemocratic for any country or congressmen to demand that the leader of a sovereign and independent country to apologise or resign.

Ahmad Zahid said the BN Youth also objected to the US government's move to investigate Petronas on its business dealings in Iran and urged Washington to cancel the visit by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Energy, Sanctions and Commodities William Ramsay next week.

He said the youth wing felt that there was no basis whatsoever for the US to conduct an investigation on the national oil corporation.

Petronas, Russia's Gazprom and France's Total SA are involved in a US\$2 billion (about RM6.6 billion) joint-venture deal with Iran to develop part of the giant South Pars gas field.

The Cabinet decided at its weekly meeting yesterday to reject the move by the US to investigate Petronas' investment in Iran. -- BERNAMA

ZAI TS