

03 AUG 1997

Mahathir-Soros

DR MAHATHIR TO CONSIDER MEETING SOROS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he would consider meeting American financier George Soros whom he had identified as the "rogue speculator" who manipulated Asean currencies.

Soros, in an interview with the New Straits Times in New York which was published today, had sought to meet Dr Mahathir and had denied that his company had made speculative attacks on several Asean currencies including the ringgit.

"Well, I will certainly consider it (meeting Soros)," said Dr Mahathir when asked to comment on the newspaper report after bidding farewell to his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport, near here. Nawaz left for Islamabad after a four-day visit.

"We'll find out what he wants to explain," said Dr Mahathir.

The prime minister had said on Tuesday that the government had definite evidence that the pressure on the ringgit and other Asean currencies was caused by Soros.

In the report, the Hungarian-born Soros said he would like to meet Dr Mahathir, possibly in November when he (Soros) addresses the International Monetary Fund-World Bank annual meeting in Hong Kong.

"I would very much like to meet Dr Mahathir in a discussion in a public forum, where we can discuss our differences and he can present any evidence that he has of my nefarious activities," Soros was quoted as saying.

However, despite their differences, the 67-year-old Soros made it clear that he had no desire to do battle with Dr Mahathir.

When a reporter told Dr Mahathir that Soros had also said there was no difference between Asian values and universal values, the prime minister said: "So Asian values are universal values?...I'm very glad that he has accepted that." -- BERNAMA

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