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Dr M: I am considering Soros' request for meeting

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is considering American currency trader George Soros' request for a meeting to clarify the latter's position after being identified as a "rogue speculator".

Soros had sought a meeting with the Prime Minister after Dr Mahathir identified him as the person who had manipulated Southeast Asian currencies to discourage and punish countries in the region for admitting Myanmar into Asean.

"Well, I will consider it certainly. I want to find out what he can contribute," Dr Mahathir said told reporters after he bade farewell to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who was here for a three-day official visit.

Soros had asked for a meeting in an interview with the New Straits Times. Soros, 67, had also suggested a public discussion with Dr Mahathir on the issue.

Soros also denied his company had made speculative attacks on several Southeast Asian currencies, including the ringgit.

On Soros' statement that there was no difference between Asian and universal values, the Prime Minister said: "So Asian values are universal values? I am very glad that he accepts that."

When asked to comment on Soros' statement that he was unsure whether the interview would appear in Malaysia due to censorship and government control of the Malaysian media, Dr Mahathir said: "Yes, of course, the media here is under censorship and controlled by the Government.

"That is why we have so many people attacking the Government, especially in the vernacular Press ... the Chinese and Indian Press are always attacking the Government."

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