

14 NOV 1997

Lim-US

GERAKAN HITS OUT AT US CONGRESSMEN'S ACTION

AYER TAWAR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- Gerakan has condemned the action of 27 United States Congressman asking Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to apologise or resign as Prime Minister for his alleged anti-American and anti-Jewish remarks.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the congressmen were adopting a racist attitude and were seeking to interfere in the internal affairs of Malaysia.

Washington had interfered in the domestic affairs of other countries before and even acted as the policeman of the world by detaining Panama's leader General Noreiga and trying him in the US, he told reporters after visiting Kampung Ayer Tawar here yesterday.

Expressing full support for Dr Mahathir, Dr Lim said the Prime Minister was chosen by the people of Malaysia and it was not for the US to ask him to resign.

He was also confident that all members of parliament in Malaysia including those from opposition parties supported the leadership of Dr Mahathir.

On the US action to investigate Petronas for its involvement in a deal to develop a gas field in Iran, Dr Lim said there were no laws that prohibited any sovereign nation from establishing business ties with other countries.

Such investments in Iran might not be lawful under US law but they did not violate Malaysian or international laws, said Dr Lim, who is also Primary Industries Minister.

The Malaysian government and Petronas must therefore stop the US investigation against the national oil company and not entertain a member of the probe team who was scheduled to arrive in Malaysia next week, he said. -- BERNAMA

RZS SK