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Let's treat US demand for apology as a joke

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THE call by the 30-odd United States congressmen that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad either apologise or resign over a purported remark should not be taken seriously.

A joke, in fact. Just compare it with the relative silence they chose to keep when Louis Farrakhan loudly blasted the American Jewish community, in particular, and whites, in general, for being allegedly racial. Why? Because they could anticipate the consequences.

Things now have developed, rightly or wrongly, that semitic pasts were ones of fidelity. Those who happened to fall on the other side of the conflicting pasts are by definition the perpetrators of the crime against humanity. Therefore, by an accident of history, a generation of people in a corner of Europe were criminalised.

Were not among them the world had benefited from the emergence of esteemed philosophers?

Nothing is absolutely right or wrong. It's subjective to time and circumstances. That was the reason why Kurt Waldheim was found all right when he was to become the UN Secretary-General. But at a later time, the Jewish pressure group levelled a crime against humanity charge against him when he was about to become the Chancellor of Austria.

Such is the confidence the US congressmen are now showing against Dr Mahathir. Perhaps a lesson from Farrakhan's approach is worth a try.

Anyway, like in the case of Dr Waldheim, the pressure is best ignored by our Prime Minister.