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US AGAIN DEFENDS SOROS OVER CURRENCY CRISIS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 27 (Bernama) -- The United States again defended American financier George Soros, saying that currency fluctuations are more due to economic forces than one individual.

Yesterday, Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad identified the 67-year-old Soros as the rouge speculator who was behind the depreciating value of several currencies in the region since early this month.

"Usually currency problems are caused by economic forces and not the action of one individual," US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters after the meeting of the Asean Regional Forum here.

"I think it is important to note that in most parts of the world, currency fluctuations occur and they occur for economic reasons because of government policies," he said. -- BERNAMA

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