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Soros-Mca

US EMBASSY DECLINES TO ACCEPT MCA LETTER AGAINST SOROS

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 30 (Bernama) --The US Embassy here today declined to accept an MCA Youth letter of protest against American financier George Soros, the man blamed for manipulating Asean currencies, saying that he is a private citizen and not a representative of the United States Government.

Chairman of the MCA Youth International Affairs Bureau Lee Hwa Beng said a US Embassy official refused to accept the letter on the grounds that "he and his government have nothing to do with George Soros."

Lee and nine other members of the MCA Youth committee including its Vice Chairman Hoo Seong Chang, came to the US Embassy this morning to hand over to the Ambassador a letter of regret and protest against Soros.

However, only Lee and Hoo were allowed to enter the embassy compound and they were ushered in to see US Counsellor for Political Affairs, Jeffrey J Lundstead, at his office.

Last Saturday Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had named Soros as the man behind the manipulation of Asean currencies.

Lee said Lundstead read some part of the letter addressed to Ambassador John R. Malott but later returned it saying that the US government had nothing to do with it.

"But I said George Soros is a US citizen and he agreed but declined to accept the letter," he said when met outside the US Embassy compound, here.

The letter among other things reaffirmed the MCA Youth support for Dr Mahathir in exposing Soros. It also urged the US Government to take necessary punitive action to stop such detrimental activities by its citizens.

According to Lee, Lundstead's attitude was undiplomatic.

Lee however said the movement would not give up and would post the letter to the Ambassador.

Meanwhile US Embassy Acting Public Affairs Officer Thomas R Carmichael said if the MCA Youth movement had something against Soros then it was only proper that it send the letter directly to Soros.

"Soros is a US citizen but he is a private citizen and if you have something against him then your letter should be addressed directly to him and not the embassy," he said.

"This is something private and the US Embassy is not the appropriate channel," he said.

"It is not the policy of the United States Government to interfere in the internal affairs of its private citizens," he added.

Last Monday, US Underscretary of state for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs, Stuart Eizenstat said his government had ruled out that Soros was the only man behind the speculations of some Asean currencies.

He defended the US government's stand that the market movements were not dominated by a small number of currency speculators, let alone one person.

--BERNAMA

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