

19 NOV 1998

Gore-reaction

GORE CONTINUES TO GET FLAK OVER DINNER REMARKS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- United States vice president Al Gore's provocative dinner remarks last Monday which intruded into Malaysia's internal affairs, continued to draw angry reactions from Malaysians.

MCA publicity bureau chief Datuk Wong See Wah today not only condemned Gore for openly expressing support for anti-government demonstrators of the so-called movement for reform but also his lack of common decency as an honoured guest.

He said Gore's remarks had threatened Malaysia-US bilateral relations.

"Malaysia is a constitutional democracy with a fair judiciary and has its own authority in monitoring issues pertaining to law. We do not need outside interference or outsiders to teach us," he said in a statement.

Wong described Gore's remarks as "rude, arrogant and exceeding his limits and mirrored a US policy of bullying other countries."

As such Malaysians should be wary of US hegemonism and unite to support the governing Barisan Nasional coalition led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Addressing last Monday night's Apec Business Summit dinner heret, Gore praised the so-called movement for reform describing the protestors as "brave people of Malaysia."

In KUALA TERENGGANU, the state Umno Youth condemned Gore and described his remarks as seditious.

Its executive committee member Tengku Zainudin Tengku Zahid said:"The remarks could undermine peace and unity of the Malaysian people."

He said Gore should have left it to Malaysia's leadership to solve the country's own problems.

In JOHOR BAHRU, the Johor Umno liaison committee said the US had ulterior motives and had premeditated to interfere in local affairs.

Committee chairman and Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said Gore's remarks could incite more Malaysians to take to the streets to topple a democratically elected government.

"Gore was too much," he said.

In KEMAMAN, Umno Information Chief Datuk Dr Yusof Noor described supporters of former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's so-called movement for reform as traitors and slaves of the US.

In KUANTAN, Lipis Umno division head Datuk Omar Othman said Gore's remarks was a major insult to the nation's leadership especially Dr Mahathir.

A group of 13 Malaysians identifying themselves as Corporate Citizens placed a full-page advertisement in the New Straits Times newspaper today to condemn Gore.

"The arrogant, ignorant and rude attitude is the not the stand of the United States and her citizens," they said in the advertisement.

As with other citizens, they said, Malaysians also love peace, development and prosperity which is evident in the country due to its political stability.

"We are very confident of the government we had chosen democratically," they said.

In LANGKAWI, Wanita UMNO chief Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman regarded Gore's dinner speech as a big mistake because of its irresponsible tones.

Zaharah said Gore should not have harped on Malaysia's sensitive

internal issues when he came as the country's guest for the APEC summit.

-- BERNAMA

Team gm