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Rebirth of the 'Ugly American'?

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IN a civilised society, we learn about American standards of democracy, fair play and things like civility, appropriate conduct and the concept of 'good order'.

For example, we learn that for good order, we in Asia shall practice civility and not pass any comment about US President Bill Clinton's sexual misconduct that is not appropriate.

The recent behaviour of US Vice-President Al Gore and currency trader George Soros most certainly do not comply with practices of a just and civil society.

This is a shame for the United States. There is so much that the world at large admires about America - its inventiveness, its creativity, Hollywood and by and large its economic might.

Many Asians send their smartest to the best of American schools so that they can learn from the best about being the best.

Yet, every now and then, the exuberant display of arrogance by some Americans tend to give all Americans a bad name.

It wasn't too long ago in the 1960s when the same brand of exuberant arrogance earned them the 'Ugly American' name in Europe.

It would seem that whenever the US is flying high, some of its prominent people feel that they can behave badly and arrogantly without regard to the 'Western invention and definition' of civilised conduct because they are citizens of the mighty United States of America, and the rest of the world be damned.

Ironically, this contradicts the American standard of democracy and legal system where 'right' is 'might' and not the other way round where 'might' is always 'right'.

When American behaviour departs from standards set by themselves, they start to lose their credibility.

It makes us wonder what would cause an intelligent nation to exhibit such arrogance.

It makes Malaysians from all walks of life wonder what this American conspiracy is that wants Malaysia to go down and stay down? It makes Malaysians wonder why Gore would behave, not like an American vice-president, but like an uncouth guerilla in his Apec speech.

Soros - yes, he does not like our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad but what platform is he speaking from when he chooses to pass judgment on political and economic matters of a country which he has never visited. The fact of the matter is that our country is really too small to be of interest to his Quantum fund.

Malaysians also wonder why CNBC, another American propaganda machine, continues to slander our country by insinuating comparisons with Indonesia.

Why beg your pardon - there is no comparison indeed! If Soros could take the trouble to come to Malaysia, he would find that despite his incredibly bad behaviour, we Malaysians would still be happy to take him around and show him that our shopping centres are full of people, supermarket shelves are full of goods, international hypermarts like Carrefour continue to expand and our nightlife is bustling. We have no rampant looting and rape in this country.

We wonder why the US administration condones the exuberant arrogance of Gore and Soros?

You may not like Dr Mahathir's forthrightness but that does not give you credibility to support someone that is being charged for sexual misconduct and corruption unless there are other reasons?

Is it because Dr Mahathir is against some form of colonisation by foreign powers?

One last point - Malaysia is a very democratic nation. If our government followed the hardball tactics of one of our neighbouring countries, the western media would not be allowed free circulation here and finally, all political opponents will be destroyed without mercy.