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`Fujimori not seeking asylum here'

Ashraf Abdullah in Bandar Seri Begawan
PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has dismissed as "laughable" a CNN report that Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori is seeking political asylum in Malaysia.

"There was no such request. It's almost laughable," he told Malaysian journalists at Istana Darut Taqwa at the end of the two-day Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit.

"Yes, he is a good friend, but that does not mean I am giving him asylum," Dr Mahathir said, adding that no such request was ever made by Fujimori.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia did not have a specific policy on granting political asylum.

"But there are some people who come and stay for a while," he said.

On his bilateral meeting with Russian president Vladimir Putin on Tuesday, Dr Mahathir said they agreed on various issues including extending technological co-operation.

"Russia has expertise in aircraft, satellite and communication technology," he said adding that Malaysia was interested in learning from the Russians in these areas.

Dr Mahathir said he had invited Russia to use Malaysia as a gateway to the region for its products.

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