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Decision to exclude US made in a democratic manner, says Mahathir

MALACCA, Sat: The United States should not consider the loss of its seat in the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) as an unfair decision as it was made in a democratic manner.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr

Mahathir Mohamad said the US has to accept the reality that it has been voted out of the commission and should not say it is unfair.

"In a democracy, sometimes you lose and sometimes you win.

"Win or lose, you have to accept

it," Mahathir told reporters after attending the Group 21 Special Forces gathering at the Sungai Udang Army Camp today.

He was asked to comment on the US being voted out of the UNHRC when it received 29 votes compared

with France's 52, Austria's 41 and Sweden's 32.

Mahathir said those taking part in the secret ballot may have felt it was appropriate to give the opportunity to a country that they view to be more capable to sit in the com-

mission.

On speculation that the US was voted out due to its interference in the affairs of other countries, in particular human rights issues, Mahathir said this could be a possibility.