

# Kuan Yew's statement uncalled for, says Pas chief

Nst - 7 SEP 2001

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. -- Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor today described as "premature and uncalled for" the statement by Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew that dealing with an Opposition-led Malaysian government would be "problematic".

Fadzil said Pas regretted that Lee had expressed his worry over a new government other than the present one led by Umno.

"The Barisan Alternatif has not been in contact or in discussion as yet with the Singaporean Government and any insinuation of a future enmity is mutually counter-productive.

"We trust that Mr Lee is wise enough to avoid political intrusion as he would like to be treated reciprocally," Fadzil said in a statement.

Yesterday, Lee, after reaching agreements on bilateral issues with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said:

"Supposedly we did not strike a deal and supposedly in 2004, God forbid, you don't have an Umno-led Government to negotiate with...that's more problematic."

Fadzil today said Pas was committed to a foreign policy that stressed on freedom and neutrality with all peaceful countries.

It also supported constructive engagement and regional cooperation among Asean countries, he added.

"With such a commitment, we foresee a close relationship with any country including Singapore, more so that it is our immediate neighbour," said the Pas chief-tain.