

19 OCT 2001

AP-Apology

AP APOLOGISES TO PRIME MINISTER OVER INCORRECT REPORT

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- The Associated Press (AP) has apologised to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad over its Oct 8 story by reporter Sean Yoong which quoted the Prime Minister out of context.

The apology was contained in a letter dated today and signed by its Kuala Lumpur news editor Rohan Sullivan and Yoong.

A copy of the letter addressed to Dr Mahathir was made available to Bernama here.

The letter said that after the PM's office contacted AP to draw its attention to the error, the news organisation issued a correction on Oct 10 asking its subscribers worldwide to use a new story stating that AP had quoted Dr Mahathir out of context and clarifying its report over the Prime Minister's remarks.

"The AP and Mr Yoong sincerely regret the error and wish to apologise for the incorrect report. The AP holds you in high regard and did not intend to misrepresent you in any way.

"We hope you will accept this apology," AP said in the letter.

On Oct 11, the AP in its story admitted that it had quoted Dr Mahathir out of context on his response to United States-led air strikes on Afghanistan when answering a question at the Dewan Rakyat.

The erroneous story by Yoong prompted the PM's office to demand that AP and the reporter concerned issue a correction and apologise to Dr Mahathir.

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