

27/12/2001

Home Ministry summons editors, asks for explanation

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The editor and chief news editor of The Sun newspaper were summoned to the Home Ministry today following a front page report yesterday about an alleged plot to assassinate Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Andy Ng and Robert Ho were asked to explain the report to the Publication Control Division secretary, Mohd Abdul Halim Muhammad, at the Ministry in Putrajaya, this morning.

Home Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Aseh Che Mat confirmed this when contacted today.

"They met my officers today and we are looking into the matter," he said, declining to elaborate.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that The Sun's editor-in-chief H'ng Hung Yong resigned today.

The Sun frontpaged a report yesterday that the police had uncovered a plot to assassinate Dr Mahathir and Abdullah.

The report, which was picked up by foreign news agencies and transmitted worldwide, said the hit was supposed to be carried out in a month or two by a hitman.

The hitman was allegedly hired by several politicians who are behind the conspiracy.

It is learnt that Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Jamil Johari has instructed his men to record the statements of the two reporters who wrote the story.