

14/10/2001

`American policy had role in terrorism'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - There is no doubt that American foreign policy has, to a certain extent, played a role in the rise of terrorism, DAP secretary-general Kerk Kim Hock said today.

Responding to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's essay which called criticism against the United States as "misplaced diatribe", Kerk said it was clear that the US had failed to effectively help to resolve the root causes of terrorism.

"There are political causes which had resulted in the rise of terrorism," he said when contacted.

He declined direct comment on Anwar's essay, which appeared in the latest issue of Time magazine, but reiterated the DAP's stand that there should be a world convention on terrorism.

Kerk agreed with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that such a convention was necessary to debate the definition of terrorist and to resolve the root causes.

"The US, as the world's most powerful country, must do some soul searching."

Anwar, in his essay Who Hijacked Islam? wrote that the Government-controlled media in Malaysia were being used to stir up anti-American sentiment.

He acknowledged that there were legitimate grievances against America but was of the opinion that "this is not the time for sermonising or moralising over US foreign policy".

(END)