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Nothing but chicanery

EVIDENTLY, some quarters in the country would like the Bush-administration to script a Malaysia-phobic policy. Plainly enraged by the fact that President George W. Bush would not permit the previous administration's taste for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to stand in the way of an enhanced US-Malaysia relationship, they are hell-bent on twisting, factually and contextually, Dr Mahathir's statements and Malaysia's stance on global issues.

There is the foul smell of sameness to the latest round of allegations - the same dramatic flourish on `dictatorial' regimes which the US must help dismantle by not softening its endorsement of the struggle for democracy; the same eerie divorce from reality in the accusations that `autocrats' use their participation in the global war against terrorism to terrorise their critics and dissenters and that the media is used to whip up anti-American sentiment; and the same sense of misplaced victimhood.

We've heard it all before. All these allegations have little to do with any genuine concern for anti-terror or the demonisation of Islam but more to do with narrow self-interests. When Malaysia is doing its best to convince the world that there is no definitive end to the Kalashnikov culture (we are averse to the term jihad culture for it, in the context of the Sept 11 tragedy, is a misnomer) without a resolution of the conditions that breed desperate and violent response, we have miscreants who are bankrupt of ideas and thrive on distortion of facts.

Ah, yes, where would the likes of V.S. Naipaul be if they had no dark nations to agitate their sensibilities? What would their political relevance be if they do not satisfy the basic urge of erstwhile missionaries to preach the message of moral superiority to those of low GNP? No doubt, the nation's detractors have perfected the Great Dope Trick - the ability to vilify our achievements, to crucify Dr Mahathir and the people's choice of Government, and to score political points from their deranged rationale.

By all means, let there be criticism. But there should not be baseless and vile allegations. Better sense will prevail if the critics get real and stop deluding themselves.

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