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PM's Office sends letter of complaint to news agency

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Prime Minister's Office today sent an official letter of complaint to the Associated Press over its report on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement on the US-led attacks on Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister's Press secretary Datuk Zakaria Abdul Wahab said the letter, dated yesterday, was faxed to the AP bureau here today.

"We are waiting for an official response," he said when contacted.

Meanwhile, AP declined comment on the demand for a correction and public apology over its report.

Its Kuala Lumpur news editor Rohan Sullivan said AP had no comments for the time being. He declined to say if AP would be putting out a correction or issue an apology later.

Yesterday, the PM's Department demanded an apology over an article by AP reporter Sean Yoong which quoted Dr Mahathir as saying that the United States and Britain should attack Israel.

The PM's Department pointed out that Dr Mahathir was not referring to the US or Britain in that statement, and said Yoong's report had taken the Prime Minister's comments out of context.

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