

03 APR 2001  
US-Mahathir  
US AMBASSADOR MEETS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 (Bernama) -- United States ambassador to Malaysia B.Lynn Pascoe today called on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's office in Parliament House.

"Pascoe met Dr Mahathir at 9am and the meeting lasted for almost an hour," a source told Bernama today.

The Prime Minister later tabled the Third Outline Perspective Plan at the Dewan Rakyat.

This was Pascoe's first formal meeting with Dr Mahathir since he assumed the post on March 1, 1999.

The meeting comes less than three months after George W.Bush was inaugurated as the 43rd US president on Jan 20.

However, the source could not say if the meeting was at the request of the US ambassador nor were any details of the meeting immediately available.

Meanwhile, US embassy spokesman James Warren when contacted today said he had no information about the meeting.

Pressed further whether he was aware about the meeting, Warren said: "I don't have any information. I can't confirm or deny."

Relations between the US and Malaysia have often been stormy over accusations that Washington has been interfering in Malaysian affairs.

Various quarters, including political parties and non-governmental organisations have in the past blamed the US for meddling in the internal affairs of Malaysia.

Last August, Malaysia strongly protested to the US for making statements attacking Malaysia's judiciary in its handling of the criminal cases against former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Around the same time, seven US Congressmen had sought to pass a resolution at the US Congress, condemning Malaysia over the Anwar saga.

Former US vice-president Al Gore, who lost to Bush in the US presidential election late last year, had also irked Malaysians when he supported the Reformasi movement when delivering his speech at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders summit dinner here in 1998.

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