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Huhtala-Cooperation

US EMBASSY REFUTES ALLEGATIONS M'SIA FANS ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS

CYBERJAYA, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- The United States embassy here today refuted allegations that the Malaysian government is steering anti-American feelings.

"That's not my stand at all...I've been here for 18 days and I've got nothing but good cooperation from the Malaysian government," US ambassador-designate Marie T. Huhtala told reporters.

Huhtala and members of the American-Malaysian Chamber of Commerce earlier attended a luncheon with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, hosted by Tenaga Nasional Berhad at the Cyberview Lodge here.

On the luncheon, Huhtala said it was a wonderful moment for the American businessmen to have time with the Prime Minister.

She said the American businessmen had a fruitful dialogue session with Dr Mahathir and they had expressed satisfaction over the current situation in Malaysia.

Huhtala also praised the police for their excellent job in providing security to the embassy grounds in the wake of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington last month and the US retaliatory strikes on Afghanistan.

She said the police had been very cooperative in providing security for the embassy especially since the crisis arose.

"Starting from the night of Sept 11, we received a stepped-up security from the Malaysian government...we appreciate that and we hope it would continue," she said.

She said with excellent protection, the embassy need not worry about the recurrence of a protest against the US strikes on Afghanistan in front of the embassy at Jalan Tun Razak here last Friday.

She said that she did not have ill feelings over the demonstration because it showed that the tradition of free expression was also alive here.

"As long as we can have similar protection from the Malaysian police, we are prepared to face it (demonstration)," she added.

-- BERNAMA

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