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What US ex-envoy Mallot refuses to understand

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I CANNOT agree more with Farish A. Noor's article "Mallot's letter an example of gunboat diplomacy revisited" (NST, Aug 11) on John Mallot's open letter to local online newspaper Malaysiakini.com (Aug 2) pertaining to the latter's undiplomatic remarks on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

During his tenure as ambassador to Malaysia, Mallot had already done enough mischief and damage to the political relations between the US and Malaysia.

What he is refusing to understand or acknowledge is that he will not succeed in doing what he is doing now when he had actually failed to do the same thing while in office and still had the influence then.

Through his undisguised support for opposition forces within our country all along and misleading former senior US officials then, led openly by Vice-President Al Gore and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, both of whom put up a disgraceful act while in Malaysia, he had nearly succeeded in creating chaos, not freedom, for this small but generally harmonious country of ours.

Many Malaysians, I strongly believe, now view his so-called "online contributions" to the Internet services with a cynical eye and wonder what positive effects it can have on Malaysia.

There is actually no point for Mallot, even in all his personal bitterness, to try to resurrect and give empty moral support to the weakening voices of some disgruntled groups locally.

Just as what Farish had said, I really "feel sorry" for the man whose diplomatic career had ended on a sour note.

Mallot should not continue to paint vivid pictures of his unsolicited presence and influence in the Malaysian scene but instead reconcile with the facts of life and remain a good US retiree.