

PM: US must comply with Malaysian laws

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday the United States would have to adhere to local laws in its reported attempt to interview a Malaysian man in connection with a case involving an accused conspirator of the Sept 11 tragedy currently on trial in the United States.

"Whatever they do must be in accordance with the laws of our country," he said when commenting on a report in yesterday's edition of the *Asian Wall Street Journal* (AWSJ), which said the United States was seeking Malaysia's permission to talk to Yazid Sufaat who Washington thinks could help its case against Zacarias Moussaoui.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after opening a conference on taxation in Seri Kembangan here.

On whether he would allow such an interview to take place

if an application to that effect was made, he said: "It will have to go through the usual process of extradition."

The AWSJ cited a senior Malaysian official as saying the US Justice Department had requested that Federal Bureau of Investigation agents be permitted to question Yazid.

Yazid, a former army captain and businessman, is now being detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for allegedly attempting to overthrow the Government by violent means.

It was alleged that he hosted Moussaoui who visited Malaysia in September and October 2000 while eight months earlier, two hijackers aboard the plane that plunged into the Pentagon in the Sept 11 attack had stayed at his apartment during a visit to Kuala Lumpur.