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PM's dignified response

Datuk Hamzah Abdul Majid

I READ with utter disbelief that Australian Prime Minister John Howard has arrogated upon himself the right to carry out pre-emptive strikes against neighbouring countries that he suspects of harbouring "terrorists".

First, has Howard been following the positive and firm measures taken by his Asean neighbours, especially Malaysia?

Has he not read the thoughtful statements made by our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad regarding the most effective way to defeat terrorism, that is by analysing and solving the deep-rooted causes - injustices that breed hopelessness and desperation? Influential voices in Europe and the US are gradually accepting this fact.

Second, does Howard think that we have no self-respect at all and that our defence forces will play dead while his military violates our borders?

Third, has Howard thought through his policy carefully and anticipated whether he can control its various damaging consequences?

Dr Mahathir's response was measured and dignified, but the meaning is strong and very clear. Let us hope Howard reads it carefully.

..TX:

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