

14/08/2002

Dr M: An `incursion' if US commandos came

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Malaysia will consider it an incursion if the United States sent commandos here to arrest people purported to be members of the Al-Qaeda group.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said they would be dealt with accordingly as Malaysia had its own ways to handle incursions.

"If they come to our country, it will be considered an incursion," the Prime Minister told reporters after launching Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on a report in the New York Times that the US was proposing to send commandos to any country to apprehend or kill people purported to be members of the Al-Qaeda group.

According to the report, it was not necessary for the US to inform the affected countries.

The Al-Qaeda group is linked to Saudi-born millionaire Osama bin Laden who is Washington's prime suspect in the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

On whether a company had been awarded the contract to start work on the Bakun hydroelectric dam, Dr Mahathir said he hoped it would be soon because the consumption of electricity has shot up to 900 megawatts a month. "That's very frightening," he said.