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`US must go by our law to quiz Yazid'

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The United States will have to go by Malaysian laws if it wants to interview an Internal Security Act detainee in connection with a case involving an accused conspirator of the Sept 11 attacks now on trial in the US.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today "whatever they do must be in accordance with the laws of our country".

He said this when asked on Malaysia's stand following a report in Asian Wall Street Journal today that the US Federal Bureau of Investigation would like to interview former army captain Yazid Sufaat to help in its case against Zacarias Moussaoui.

On whether the interview would be allowed if an application was made, Dr Mahathir replied: "It will have to go through the usual process of extradition."

Yazid, 37, is being detained for two years under the ISA at the Kamunting Detention Centre for his involvement with the Kumpulan Militan Malaysia.

He has been linked to Khalid Al-Midhar and Nawaf Al-Azmi, the two hijackers who crashed a jetliner into the Pentagon on Sept 11.

Moussaoui, a French citizen of Moroccan origin, also received assistance from Yazid that year.

Meanwhile, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai said the US had sought its help two weeks ago to make arrangements for the interview. A formal letter had been sent to the Federal Police headquarters in Bukit Aman.

"We are merely making the arrangements to facilitate the interview. However, it can only take place if the Home Ministry gives its approval," he said.