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Mahathir-US

US TOLD TO FOLLOW THE RULES IN BID TO TALK TO M'SIAN DETAINEE

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the United States will 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 US.

"Whatever they do must be in accordance with the laws of our country," he said when commenting on a report in today's edition of the Asian Wall Street Journal (AWSJ) which said that the US 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.

When asked 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 that the US Justice Department had requested that Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents be permitted to question Yazid in connection with his ties to Moussaoui.

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

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

-- BERNAMA
MAM AHH RM