

SUN 12 SEP 2003

Magazines out to sabotage country face ban

KUALA LUMPUR: *Business Week* has chosen to remain mum on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that it had threatened to write nasty things about him just because he declined an interview with it.

Its regional bureau chief in Hongkong, Mark Clifford, told *theSun* yesterday: "I read the prime minister's statement. I

have no comments at this moment."

When pressed, Clifford said he was sorry "but you will have to wait till the article comes out".

He was referring to a forthcoming article by the magazine's Singapore-based correspondent, Michael Shari, who could not be reached yesterday.

Mahathir had said on Wednesday he had been threatened

by the New York-based magazine, which has an Asian edition. He said the threat was made in a letter.

In **Putrajaya**, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung said the government will ban any foreign magazine with an agenda to sabotage the country.

The government will not permit any edition of such magazines to be sold if the edition or

foreign publication was intent on hurling unfounded allegations against the country and its leaders, he said.

"Until now, the government has been adopting a liberal attitude ... we have allowed constructive criticism. We will have to take very firm action against them," he said after attending the ministry's monthly assembly here.