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Mahathir-Senate

MALAYSIA NOT BOTHERED BY US RESTRICTIONS ON AID- DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said that Malaysia is not bothered by a reported move by the United States Senate to place restrictions on US military training aid to this country.

The Prime Minister said that annoyance over his recent comments about the Jews was what drove the US Senate to take such action.

"The thing is they are very annoyed with what I said about the Jews. This is their reaction. So what I said is true," he told reporters after attending a function at his office, here.

It was reported that the US Senate unanimously agreed to condition US\$1.2 million (US\$1=RM3.80) in military training assistance to Malaysia until US Secretary of State Colin Powell determined that Malaysia supported and promoted religious freedom for all including the Jews.

Dr Mahathir, who retires on Friday, drew condemnation from Western and European leaders for his assertion that Jews controlled the world by proxy at the recently-concluded 10th Organisation of the Islamic Conference summit here.

On the action by the Senate, he said Malaysia could find US\$1 million dollars from within the country and that it did not need the training anyway.

Dr Mahathir said that the US Senate, by its action, wanted to dictate to the world.

"We are all being run by the US Senate, you see. It's no good having our own election. We better elect (representatives) in the US election and then we can be sure we get the right representatives."

The Prime Minister said that such a restriction had been placed before and it too did not make any difference to Malaysia then.

"We don't depend on the training," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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