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Resolution-Vote

US HOUSE OF REPS TO VOTE ON MAHATHIR RESOLUTION

By: Salmy Hashim

WASHINGTON, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- The United States House of Representatives is expected to vote Tuesday a resolution repudiating the recent "anti-Semitic" remarks by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, which it charges "makes peace in the Middle East and around the world more elusive."

The resolution, co-sponsored and introduced on Oct 21 by four members of the house, is non-binding, but it records the sense of congressional members regarding the Prime Minister's controversial remarks about the Jews.

A Senate resolution was passed on Oct 17 which called on the President of the US to condemn the anti-Semitic sentiments expressed by the outgoing Prime Minister in a speech delivered at the 57th OIC Leaders' Summit in Putrajaya.

President George W. Bush was reported to have expressed his displeasure about the remarks at the Apec Leaders' Informal Meeting in Bangkok last week.

The house resolution, almost similar in content with the senate version, notes that the Prime Minister "has become notorious over the years for his overt anti-Semitism and opposition to the State of Israel."

It notes that the rhetoric, characterising Jews as the "enemy" who "rule the world by proxy" is neither "excused nor rationalised" and that Dr Mahathir's remarks are despicable and could serve to incite further sectarian violence.

The resolution calls upon other governments and international bodies, notably the European Union to "condemn these remarks as dangerous incitement."

Additionally, it "deplores the tacit acquiescence of those national representatives in attendance at the October 2003 Organisation of the Islamic Conference as willing complicity in spreading a message of hate and incitement against Jews."

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