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Mahathir-Iran

US MAY USE PROXY TO ATTACK IRAN, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 16 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has predicted that the United States may use a proxy to launch an attack against Iran over the nuclear issue.

He believed the US would urge Israel to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities just like what the Tel Aviv regime did to Iraq initially before Washington launched the full-scale war in Iraq.

"US seems to want other people to fight for them," he told reporters here in response to questions on the development of the Iran-North Korea nuclear issues.

The US, he said, would attack Iran because it thought that the latter had no weapon of mass destructions although such allegation were made against Tehran.

"They attacked Iraq because they know Iraq has no weapon of mass destruction," he told reporters here today.

However, Dr Mahathir strongly believed that the US was unlikely to attack North Korea although Pyongyang had openly declared that it possessed nuclear weapons.

"North Korea, the agenda is different. It is not just weapons of mass destruction, there is also this element of hatred against Muslim. There is a religious element in this thing. If it is non-Muslim, the US will not attack," he said.

Furthermore, he said the US would exercise a little bit more careful in handling the North Korean nuclear issue because the country could do a lot of things with its weapons of mass destructions.

The US, he said, believed that it could do anything it liked to the Muslim countries for several reasons.

Firstly because Muslim countries were divided, secondly there were some Muslim countries which supported the US against other Muslim countries and finally because Muslim countries were incapable of retaliation, he said.

He said the only retaliation the US might face was from non-governmental bodies such as Al-Qaeda which resorted to acts of terror.

Dr Mahathir reiterated that the solution to the war against terrorism which was made by him since 1983 was to look at the root causes of all these acts of violence following the decision to take Palestine and give it to the Jews and expel the Palestinians from their own country without any compensation.

However, he felt that powerful countries would not act in settling the root causes of terrorism because they wanted to uphold Israel at any cost even if the whole world were threatened with terrorism.

This was due to the Israelis having a strong hold on the most powerful nations, he said.

Muslim countries on the other hand would continue to fight and sabotage against each other, contributing to a worsening of the situation.

"The Muslim world should go back to Islam. The teaching of Islam. The fundamental teaching of Islam that all Muslims are brothers and Muslims should not kill another Muslim," he said.

Dr Mahathir doubted that the Palestine-Israel ceasefire agreement would work because he had his doubts over Israel's commitment.

-- BERNAMA

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