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PM: US decision to restrict aid only proves what I said about Jews

Firdaus Abdullah

PUTRAJAYA, Tues. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the US Senate's decision to restrict US military training aid to Malaysia over his remarks about Jews only proves him right that the Jews control the world by proxy.

The Prime Minister said with such decisions, it was obvious Washington was trying to dictate to the world and intrude into the affairs of independent nations.

"Before this, they have cut US\$1 million (RM3.8 million). The US\$1.2 million cut does not make any difference. We don't really need the money or the training. We can find the US\$1 million or more here.

"They want to dictate to the world. We are all being run by the US Senate now. It is no good having our own elections. We better vote in the US elections and then we can be assured that we get the right representative there," Dr Mahathir said when asked to comment on the US Senate's move to impose conditions and restrictions on the training aid.

The Senate had unanimously agreed to condition US\$1.2 million in military training assistance to Malaysia on a determination by US Secretary of State Colin Powell that the country supports and promotes religious freedom, including for Jews.

Asked if the Senate's decision was justified, Dr Mahathir responded: "Whether it is justified or not, it is their viewpoint. The thing is that they are very annoyed about what I said about the Jews. This is their reaction. So, what I've said is true."

After viewing a range of the latest MV Augusta SpA motorcycles at Complex Perdana Putra here, Dr Mahathir said Kuala Lumpur was not worried over the US Senate's recent "outburst" over his remarks and added that Malaysia did not depend on the aid or US military training.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir witnessed the signing of an agreement of intent between Proton and renowned Italian motorcycle manufacturer MV Augusta Motor SpA for the local car manufacturer to evaluate viability of acquiring a 50 per cent stake in the Italian company.

Proton was represented by its chief executive officer Tengku Dr Mahaleel Tengku Arif while MV Augusta's founder and owner Claudio Castiglioni inked on behalf of the company.

A 50 per cent stake would give Proton distribution rights and controlling stake in the company internationally acknowledged as the "Ferrari of motorcycles" with products that are known for style, technology, innovation and commitment to racing.

Castiglioni, who owns 95 per cent stake in the company, would, upon final evaluation, part with 50 per cent of his share, thus turning Proton into the controlling stake owner.

Commenting on Proton's venture into the world of motorcycles, Dr Mahathir said it was time for Proton to go into new niche markets and products to capture the international market and gain recognition.

"Proton has got bicycles which is doing quite well. It has cars, of course, and it has to go into this area now. It is a very competitive world and we have to be looking all the time for niche markets so that we can be of world class in those areas.

"These bikes, as you can see, are world class. So, we are going to manufacture them here and sell them all over the world," he said, adding that he was happy to see Proton expanding its range of products and

gaining reputation as a global player.

Proton was essentially established as a car manufacturer but its acquisition of Lotus Group International in 1996 has given it the engineering capability and expertise to venture into the development of a full range of transportation solutions.

Proton's products at present ranges from motorcycles and watercraft to light aircraft and military vehicles.

MV Augusta has an illustrious history on its own. Established in 1978 to manufacture motorcycles under the name of Cagiva Motor, the company was subsequently renamed MV Augusta and manufactures and sells about 18,000 units a year.