

Dr M: No comment on new AP list

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today declined to make further comments on the Approved Permits (AP) issue.

Dr Mahathir covered both his ears when followed by a group of newsmen to get his comments on the issue.

“No, no ... enough,” he said, smiling as he walked towards his car when asked to comment on the new AP list released by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, after delivering a luncheon address at the Third Asia Economic Summit today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who was in Johannesburg on a three-day visit to South Africa, had ordered the issuance of the 2004 AP list following Dr Mahathir's

call on Tuesday for its release.

Asked whether he would hold a Press conference to reply on the matter, Dr Mahathir said: “Better not.”

Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir joked about the AP issue. As he spoke about China not having military ambitions, he said: “For me, I am not afraid of China.”

“But I worry about people who talk about pre-emptive attacks, the right to regime change. China, I hope will never think about changing the regime of Malaysia.

“We have a very good Government here. Very considerate. Off and on, APs are given to the wrong people. Those are minor things,” he said drawing laughter from the audience. — Bernama