

The Sun - 5/10/2006

# Lee's 'apology' no apology at all

**ALL** the establishment newspapers had screaming headlines "Lee says sorry" as if now that he has apologised so the matter is at rest.

But did Lee Kuan Yew really apologise? Surely even a cursory reading of his letter does not show that he had apologised over what he said before an international audience of World Bank/IMF participants in the middle of last month.

In fact he further strengthened his accusations with his ramblings over why Singapore needed a strong government and how it was Malaysia that started similar accusations against the island republic that Singapore Malays were being marginalised.

What he apologised for is only to be sorry that his accusations had caused the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi "a great deal of discomfort".

Is that an apology? This is a classic case of when an apology is not an apology. Thus I do not understand how the newspapers in this country can spin that it was an apology.

Another thing that could be questioned is his undiplomatic behaviour of releasing a supposedly private letter in response to another private letter.

Pak Lah never released the contents of his letter. With the explanation that since the fact that Pak Lah had written to him seeking an explanation had been widely publicised and that he had been asked about his reply, so releasing it to the public is justified?