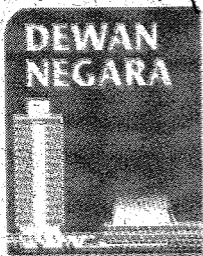


Goh's first letter to Dr M not valid

NOT-10/5/2006



A LETTER from former Singapore prime minister Goh Chok Tong to former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in April 2002 agreeing to Malaysia's proposal to build a half-bridge across the Johor Strait was rendered void by another letter later that year.

Parliamentary secretary to the Foreign Affairs Ministry Ahmad Shabery Cheek said the initial discussions between Goh and Dr Mahathir were on a package deal.

"It involved issues such as raw water and land," Ahmad said.

But when further developments rendered it difficult to continue discussions on the package deal, Dr Mahathir wrote to Goh in October that year to say that no resolution could be reached on the bridge issue.

A week later, Goh replied saying that if this were the case, his first letter would have to be ignored as it was written with the whole package in mind.

Ahmad was replying to Senator Datuk Syed Ali Syed Abbas Alhabshiee on why Malaysia did not hold Singapore to Goh's first letter.