

Govt studying 'May 13'

Ministry checking contents of book for sensitivities

The Star - 17/5/2007

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Internal Security Ministry is studying the recently published book on May 13 to see if it violated the Printing Press and Publications Act 1984.

Its Deputy Minister Datuk Fu Ah Kiew confirmed that the book was not banned and that his officers were reading it to check whether it was prejudicial to public order, morality or security.

"We are not taking any action now because we have to study the contents of the book and see if it is likely to alarm public opinion."

It was reported that ministry officials seized

10 copies of the book from a bookstore in Mid-Valley Megamall here on Tuesday.

A publisher said books were seized when they covered controversial issues.

The book on the 1969 riots, titled *May 13: Declassified Documents on the Malaysian Riots of 1969*, was launched on Sunday at the Chinese Assembly Hall here.

Activist Dr Kua Kia Soong wrote the book based on his research at the Public Records Office in London.

Yesterday, Dr Kua said that if the book were banned, publisher Suara Rakyat Malaysia (Suaram) would put it online. He said the book was written to uncover the truth and was in line with Vision 2020.

"Getting to the truth of matter, the facts in the book will help in building a knowledgeable community and a society that will be able to achieve peace with itself.

"The facts in the book are based on recorded documents and will help us exorcise the ghosts of May 13," said Kua, a former lecturer at National University of Singapore and Petaling Jaya MP from 1990 to 1995.

"The inquiry is crucial for national reconciliation — the elusive national unity we talk about, the elusive ethnic relations we want in this country. Unless we have that inquiry, we will not get that reconciliation," he added.

Meanwhile, most bookshops here have sold out their copies.