

# 'May 13' book taken away for checking

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**PETALING JAYA:** Copies of the book *May 13: Declassified Documents on the Malaysian Riots of 1969* were taken from a bookshop for checking purposes, Deputy Internal Security Minister Datuk Fu Ah Kiow said yesterday.

He told *theSun* it was normal for the ministry to check on the contents of books to determine if they were suitable for sale.

"Once (a publication is) published for sale, (if we get a) complaint or information, we make inspections by taking samples back for checking to see if the books contradict the Printing Presses and Publication Act (PPPA) 1984," he said.

"We have only taken some copies for checking - it is normal procedure. Any other book gets the same treatment."

He said bookstores were free to sell it while its contents were being reviewed.

"After having checked the content and (if) we find that it (the book) doesn't violate the act, they can proceed (with distribution). But if (it is) gazetted (to be banned), the public must return or destroy

their copy of the book."

The book, launched on Sunday, is authored by Dr Kua Kia Soong, who is a former DAP MP and currently New Era College principal and Suaram director. It is published by Suaram and sold at RM20.

It is based on documents recently declassified at the Public Records Office in London, which provide confidential observations and memoranda by the British and other foreign missions.

It was reported on Tuesday night that 10 copies of the book were confiscated by ministry officials from the MPH bookstore at Mid Valley Megamall on "suspicion of being an undesirable publication" based on Section 7 of the PPPA.

John Liu, who is the documentation coordinator of human rights group Suaram, alleged that the seizure was arbitrary and illegal as the book had not been banned.

"The reason given by the officers led by Ahmad Faisal Arshad was (that) the book had contravened the PPPA. We were further informed that these officers had advised the bookshop not to sell or display the book," he said.