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Rahman tweets links to 1986 article where Dr M raps WSJ

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KUALA LUMPUR: Barisan Nasional strategic communications director Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan yesterday tweeted links to a 1986 article in which Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad spews venom against *The Wall Street Journal* (WSJ).

He posted the article with the caption: "Malaysia's Dr Mahathir takes on *The Wall Street Journal's* lies."

Ironically, Dr Mahathir is now using reports in WSJ to launch scathing attacks on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

In the Executive Intelligence Review (EIR) article by Mary McCourt, Dr Mahathir was quoted as telling a meeting of businessmen in New York that WSJ had been conducting a sustained campaign to sabotage the Malaysian economy.

He was quoted as saying WSJ had been publishing articles "to undermine our (Malaysia's) economy".

Dr Mahathir had said the government noticed a "special trend",

where WSJ published "scurrilous" articles whenever there were international meetings that might affect investment in the country.

EIR noted how Dr Mahathir's administration had expelled two correspondents of WSJ's Asian edition and banned the publication for three months.

Dr Mahathir, when asked then whether the expulsion of the journalists would have an effect on Malaysia's efforts to stimulate United States investment, had replied: "It will have a very negative effect, which is what *The Wall Street Journal* wants to do."

He was quoted as saying the Asian edition of WSJ had published a negative article about (then) finance minister Tun Daim Zainuddin, just before an Asian Development Bank meeting the year prior (1985).

"Another was published just before a meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the four

current articles, published just before the IMF meeting in Washington, reported nothing factual," he was quoted as saying.

In responding to a report on the tin bought by the government between mid-1981 and early 1982 to support prices, he had said: "If Malaysia is suffering now, it is not because of our policies; it is because all commodities have now undergone a radical structural change.

"We are a small country, but we bow to no one.

"I know that efforts will be made by the press, the editors, to pressure the Malaysian government to do this and that.

"We will not be bludgeoned into submitting to this kind of pressure, even if it means that the development of our country is going to suffer."

EIR quoted Dr Mahathir's expressing of fear that some local journalists and newspapers had been

"brainwashed" by the foreign media.

"It is no longer necessary for the foreign press to subvert our life and values and culture.

"We, ourselves, have taken over this role."

He had said while the foreign media condemned racials, racists and chauvinists in other parts of the world, it was not the case with Malaysia.

He had claimed that some newspapers supported racialist and racist parties, like DAP and Pas.

EIR quoted him as claiming that "foreign Zionist-owned media" had helped non-Malay racialist parties disseminate information overseas in an attempt to undermine the government.

Dr Mahathir has now gone on the attack against Najib by giving a series of interviews to the foreign media, often citing their reports, including those by WSJ.