

**PRESS STATEMENT BY
THE HONORABLE DATUK SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALAYSIA,
IN RESPONSE TO THE REMARKS OF
U.S. PRESIDENT BUSH ON WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROLIFERATION
AT THE NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON D.C.
ON 11 FEBRUARY 2004**

1. Malaysia refutes any suggestion that one company in the country, SCOPE, is involved with an international network which supports the illegal production of centrifuges.
2. Since reports of the alleged involvement of SCOPE in the production of certain centrifuge components, Malaysia has undertaken thorough investigations and extended full cooperation to all concerned. SCOPE has confirmed that while it did manufacture 14 semi finished components for Gulf Technical Industries (GTI) based in Dubai, their end use was never disclosed by GTI or any other party. SCOPE's contract with GTI was publicly disclosed during the listing of its parent company, SCOMI, on the KL Stock Exchange in May 2003, as required by the regulating authority.
3. Investigations have shown that the components made by SCOPE for GTI, which included casings and clamp holders, were generic and suitable for several uses. Investigations also confirmed that SCOPE did not, and does not have the capability to manufacture a complete centrifuge unit, or a majority of the parts needed to assemble a centrifuge.
4. The Speech by President George Bush at the National Defence University on 11 February 2004 made several undue references to Malaysia. We are disappointed that the Speech appears to question the commitment of the Government of Malaysia on the issue of nuclear non proliferation.
5. Malaysia has always supported international efforts to prevent the illegal transfer of nuclear technology or the illegal production of materials which may be abused for the clandestine development of weapons of mass destruction. Malaysia is committed not only to non proliferation but also the total and complete elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.
6. We regret that an ordinary business contract entered into by SCOPE has been distorted, exaggerated and blown out of proportion. We take exception that Malaysia has been deliberately singled out in the Speech when President Bush had also clearly stated that other necessary parts were purchased through network operatives based in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Yet he failed to name those countries hosting them.

7. Malaysia feels offended that it has been unfairly and deliberately targeted by President Bush, thus tarnishing its track-record on the issue of non proliferation.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
WISMA PUTRA
PUTRAJAYA

13 February 2004