

16 APR 1976  
KUALA LUMPUR,

Fri. — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has expressed concern over a Malaysian brain drain to Australia.

About 70 per cent of the private students who went to Australia for further studies did not come back.

At the moment Australia only accepted those highly qualified and professional people as settlers but not unskilled people, he told reporters at his office after meeting the outgoing Australian High Commissioner Mr. A.H. Parsons yesterday.

If they were willing to take the skilled and professional people, they should also take the unskilled, he said.

"On the other hand we would like these people to come back but we cannot guarantee them jobs in Government service," he said.

"We cannot force them to come back for there would be other problems if we cannot provide them with suitable jobs here," Dr. Mahathir added.

But, he said, the private

# GOVT CONCERNED OVER THE BRAIN DRAIN TO AUSTRALIA

sector in this country could offer numerous employment opportunities for professional people and they had only to come back here to know what the opportunities were.

He said even those trained locally were not guaranteed jobs in the Government service.

## Review

Dr. Mahathir said the Government has increased the allowances for its scholarship holders in Britain by about eight pounds per month to compensate increases in tutorial fees and cost of living there.

The Government was al-

ways reviewing the allowances for its scholarship holders overseas in line with their cost of living, he said.

He said the cost of living in Britain had increased by about 17 to 22 per cent over the past few years and it was appropriate for the Government to adjust the allowance of its scholars there.

Dr. Mahathir also said that Malaysia was seeking ways to improve the present unfavourable trade relations with Australia.

At the moment the balance of trade was in Australia's favour in the ratio of three to one, he said.



DR. MAHATHIR