

Street:
Report
on Dr M
was
'stupid and

offensive'

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CANBERRA, Wed. — Australian Foreign Minister Tony Street has described a satirical radio item on Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as "stupid and offensive".

Malaysia said yesterday it had protested strongly over the item, put out by the Brisbane radio station of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC).

The ABC today broadcast an apology over the mock news report, which by implication referred to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir as

a "wog."

The report was used on Sept. 4 after an announcement that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir would not attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Melbourne later this month.

'FEW RESULTS'

Mr Street, in his statement issued on Monday, described the item as in the very worst taste and deplored it as an "ill-judged and insensitive attempt at humour."

"It was stupid and offensive to Australians and Malaysians alike," Mr Street said.

In Kuala Lumpur Datuk

Seri Dr Mahathir said last night on his return from a two-week European vacation that there had been much talk but few results from previous Commonwealth summits, adding that there was much more work to be done at home.

He told reporters that his decision did not mean Malaysia was considering leaving the 45-nation organisation.

"We will see if something tangible comes out of it and maybe reconsider our position," he said.

Foreign Minister Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie will be representing Malaysia at the summit from Sept. 30 to Oct. 7. — Reuter.