

Meet Fuemsso? What for? asks Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will not meet the Federation of UK and Eire Malaysian and Singapore Students Organisations (Fuemsso) during his visit to London next week.

"Why should I see them when they are not even a Malaysian group in the first place?" he asked reporters after opening the EEC — Asean industrial sectoral conference here today.

A report from London has said that Fuemsso wanted to meet him over the continued hanging of ISA detainees during his unofficial visit to Britain.

He will be in London for four days during which he will meet Mrs Margaret Thatcher, over dinner on March 9.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he would keep an open mind during his talks with Mrs Thatcher which he described as "unofficial" as there were no specific topics for discussion.

"My visit is purely a private one to attend my son's graduation in

Brighton but the British Foreign Office has fixed my appointment with Mrs Thatcher and I have accepted it," he said.

He will stop over in London after attending the non-aligned summit meeting in New Delhi.

At PULAU PERHENTIAN yesterday, he said that the people cannot expect the country's growth rate to remain at eight to 10 per cent in view of the present economic situation.

The Prime Minister said the growth rate could not possibly be achieved except if all concerned increased their productivity.

"We cannot live luxuriously as we were doing during the 60s and 70s," he told reporters.

This did not mean that the nation would face a bleak situation, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir together with his

wife, Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah, Menteri Besar of Trengganu, Datuk Amar Wan Mokhtar bin Wan Ahmad and his wife were here for a rest.

When asked to comment on Vietnam's statement that it would withdraw part of its troops from Kampuchea on condition the Heng Samrin Government is recognised by the non-aligned nations, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that Malaysia was firm in its stand that all foreign troops should be withdrawn from Kampuchea.

On the illegal Vietnamese immigrants who are still coming to Malaysia, he said there were still third countries which were willing to accept them and as such Malaysia was compelled to accept them too.

This was because the expenses in keeping them here temporarily was not borne by the Government.