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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 25 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO RIGHT TO PROTEST AGAINST ANY FOREIGN LEADER VISITING ANOTHER COUNTRY, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS COMMENTING ON A PRESS REPORT ABOUT KEDAH UMNO YOUTH AND MALAYSIAN MUSLIM YOUTH MOVEMENT (ABIM) LEADERS BEING UNHAPPY WITH THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO ISRAELI PRESIDENT CHAIM HERZOG TO VISIT SINGAPORE NEXT MONTH.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER LAUNCHING THE UNITED NATIONS 41ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT ANGKASAPURI HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT PROTEST AS THE MATTER WAS THE AFFAIR OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

KEDAH UMNO YOUTH VICE-CHAIRMAN YUSOFF ABDUL RAHMAN HAD YESTERDAY URGED THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT TO RE-CONSIDER THE DECISION, SAYING SUCH AN INVITATION WAS LIKELY TO HURT THE FEELINGS OF SINGAPORE'S ASEAN PARTNERS OPPOSED TO ISRAELI POLICIES.

ABIM PRESIDENT SIDDIQ FADIL SAID THE VISIT SHOULD BE VIEWED SERIOUSLY, ESPECIALLY IN THE WAKE OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS AND MUSLIMS IN GENERAL. -- BERNAMA
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