

David's case: It's up to Labour Minister, says Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — The Government will consider whether to revoke the citizenship of MTUC secretary-general Dr V. David if there is an official representation. Danuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said there were so far only calls by certain political parties and "since this is a democratic country, they can have their own views."

Dr Mahathir dismissed speculation that the issue was discussed in yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

"We only discussed the question of his behaviour which is very unpatriotic.

(P) We do not expect him to be a patriot but we expect him to consider the welfare of the workers," he said, adding that the Cabinet had no say in the matter.

Dr Mahathir said Dr David, who is DAP MP for Puchong, should not subvert the country's economy just so that he would be released from detention.

"There are a lot of other people who are detained and if every one of them tries to subvert the country's economy, what kind of country would this be?"

"If our economy is subverted and if our industries become uncompetitive, it is not just the investors or the

Government who pays, it is the workers."

Dr Mahathir had said that Dr David was responsible for encouraging a leading trade union in the United States — the American Federation of Labour-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) — to call on the US Government to take Malaysia out of the list of Generalised System of Preferences list.

(Malaysia exports about \$350 million worth of goods annually under the GSP.)

Asked what form of action the Government would take against Dr David, Dr Mahathir said this was up to the Labour Minister.