

A-G STUDYING COURT RULING ON DETAINEES

By T. Selva

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The Attorney-General is studying the implications of the Supreme Court decision to free people detained under the Dangerous Drugs (Special Preventive Measures) Act 1985, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister,

who is also Home Minister, said: "If it is determined that we should release them, we will free the detainees."

On May 3, the Supreme Court allowed an appeal by 11 men against High Court orders refusing their applications to be released from detention centres.

It ruled that the Home Ministry had no powers

S 17 MAY 1990

under the Act to make fresh detention orders by relying on a saving provision in the Act after revoking the original orders.

Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman had said that the Supreme Court decision did not imply the automatic release of others still under detention.

Since May 3, the Su-

preme Court has released 14 detainees. It is believed that there are more than 40 others being held under the Act.

Dr Mahathir, who returned on Monday from a two-week holiday overseas, was speaking to reporters after hosting a lunch for Thomas Cup players at the Pan Pacific Hotel here.

Asked on the proposal

by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew that Malaysia and Singapore opened their air bases for mutual inspection to encourage confidence-building, he said there had been no formal proposal.

"We may discuss the suggestion at the Cabinet meeting. I have not asked the armed forces to look into the proposal," he added.