

Foreign varsities may open campuses here

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs.

— The Government is considering the possibility of allowing foreign universities to open branch campuses in the country.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said, however, their curriculum must be in line with the national education policy.

The Prime Minister said the Government had allowed first and second-year courses of foreign universities to be conducted locally through collaboration with Malaysian universities.

On the number of places in local universities, he said the Government was unable to provide enough places because of the huge sum of money to set up universities and difficulty in finding enough teaching staff.

Asked by reporters later about Malaysia's reportedly strained relations with Australia, he said Malaysia still maintained orderly diplomatic ties with that country.

However, he said, there was proof that certain sections of the Australian media were deliberately discrediting Malaysia.

It was reported on Tuesday that there ap-

peared to be an attempt by the Australian media to sour the good relationship between Malaysia and Singapore.

The *Weekend Australian* portrayed Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew as rejecting Malaysia's proposal for an East Asian Economic Grouping in an interview.