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MALAYSIA MAY CONSIDER ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATION WITH ISRAEL

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 8 ⁹³ (Bernama) -- Israel should withdraw from the Occupied Territories and abide by all United Nations resolutions relating to the Palestinian issue if it wishes to establish diplomatic relations with Malaysia, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We are prepared to establish diplomatic relations with Israel on condition that Israel abide by decisions made by the United Nations and withdraw from the Occupied Territories," he said after chairing an Umno Supreme Council meeting here.

He was commenting on a press report from Canberra yesterday that Israel had requested for Australia's assistance in establishing diplomatic relations with Islamic nations in Asia.

Asked whether the Australian government had approached Malaysia on the matter, Dr Mahathir said: "No."

The AFP report quoted Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans as saying that Australia was seeking out countries in Southeast Asia to gain recognition for Israel on its request. -- Bernama

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