

EB271
R GE 19-06 00170
aae

Mahathir-Israel

MAHATHIR DOES NOT KNOW ABOUT TUNKU ABDULLAH'S VISIT TO ISRAEL
bm

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he was not aware of the visit by Tunku Abdullah Tunku Abdul Rahman, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's brother, to Israel recently.

Speaking to reporters after the Umno special assembly, here, he said he did not know how Tunku Abdullah could have gone there because the Malaysian passport did not allow visits to that country.

Replying to questions, he said the government did not have specific action for those who went to that country.

However, he said, he knew of a Malaysian journalist who had gone there for news coverage and the government did not take action against him.

He also said that if it was true that Tunku Abdullah had gone to Israel, he was wanted to know the details out of curiosity. -- more

NZ AM JK

♥19/06/22-05MST

EB272
R GE 19-06 00165
aae

Mahathir-Israel 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir, however, felt that the visit was a business trip.

An international news agency reported yesterday that Tunku Abdullah, the chairman of Melewar, had made a secret visit to Israel this week.

According to the report, Tunku Abdullah had discussions with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister before returning home.

Dr Mahathir also said that he had received three letters from Rabin on the action taken by Israel in peace talks with Palestine.

The cabinet was informed and replies were sent, he said.

"In our replies we asked the country to be sincere in its efforts to seek peace in Palestine," he added.

Dr Mahathir said he received the letters during the time Israel was engaged in the peace talks.

Rabin, in his letters, had indicated his hope to have relations with Malaysia, he added. -- Bernama

NZ AM JK

♥19/06/22-05MST