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MAHATHIR DID NOT MEET RABIN IN PARIS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad did not (rpt) not meet Israeli premier Yitzhak Rabin in Paris as reported by a news agency today, an aide said.

Assistant Press Secretary Encik Zakaria Abdul Wahab, when contacted over the AFP report which quoted Israeli television, said: "We deny the report. There was no such meeting."

Dr Mahathir paid an official visit to France from July 6 to 9 and stayed at the Hotel de Crillon in Paris.

Rabin was also in Paris during that time and it is learnt that coincidentally he stayed at the same hotel.

The AFP report quoted Israeli television as saying that Rabin had a secret meeting with Dr Mahathir in Paris early this month when the Israeli premier went there to receive a Unesco peace prize with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat.

However, AFP said, the television station did not elaborate. -- Bernama
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♥15/07/18-30MST