

Dr M: No plan to lift ban on Israel

S-19 JUL 1994

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government has no immediate plan to review its ban on trade with Israel, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said here yesterday.

Despite Melewar group chairman Tunku Abdullah Tuanku Abdul Rahman's admission that he was in Israel, the Government was not about to change its policy, he said.

"There is no decision yet (to allow business links between Malaysia and Israel)," he told reporters after attending a Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology meeting.

Dr Mahathir said Tunku Abdullah was in Israel to seek business opportunities.

Asked if the visit would bring about normalisation of business ties, Dr Mahathir said: "No. At this

time we will not allow any business relations with Israel."

Asked if the Government would take action against Tunku Abdullah, Dr Mahathir said: "What he did was wrong but there were others who had done the same earlier. If we are to take action, then we will have to take action against everyone."

On Saturday, Tunku Abdullah admitted in a statement that he visited Israel for three days last month.

He said Tel Aviv had politicised the visit because he was the brother of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Tunku Abdullah also confirmed that he met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at their invitation.