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Mahathir-Israel

MALAYSIA DOESN'T NEED TRADE WITH ISRAEL, SAYS PM

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PULAU PINANG, July 19⁹⁶ (Bernama) -- Malaysia has many opportunities for trade in the world even without ties with Israel, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We may lose (trade) in the case of Israel but if we work hard enough with the rest of the world, we can make it," he told reporters after opening the Pulau Pinang Skills Development Centre here today.

However, should Malaysia eventually establish relations with Israel, it would have certain assets of value to Israel... "certain skills, activities which Israel will want", he said when asked whether Malaysia would lose out to other countries in the region by not having trade ties with Israel. -- more

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Mahathir-Israel 2 (last) Pulau Pinang

On the position of Cambodian Prince Norodom Chakrapong who is now in Malaysia, Dr Mahathir said the government wanted him to leave the country as soon as possible.

He said the Cambodian government had made known that it wanted Chakrapong to leave before the visit to Malaysia by Cambodia's co-Prime Ministers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen in the near future.

Asked whether Chakrapong had contacted him, Dr Mahathir said: "Not directly with me but with the Home Ministry."

Also present at the opening ceremony were Chief Minister Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat.

Tonight, Dr Mahathir attended a dinner hosted by Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir at Hotel Equatorial. -- Bernama

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