

PM: We'll act against those who leak secrets

PENANG, Wed. — The Cabinet views seriously the action by those who leak government secrets and will act against those responsible, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said he believed that minutes of certain meetings of the Home Ministry published in an Al Arqam periodical recently could have been leaked out by civil servants who were the movement's members or sympathisers.

He said the Government was very concerned about such actions and would act against those responsible.

"Those who leak out secrets are violating the Official Secrets Act and, therefore, action can be taken against them," Dr Mahathir told a Press conference after chairing a weekly Cabinet

meeting at Equatorial Hotel in Bukit Jambul.

He said the leakage also showed that there were people with questionable loyalty in the Government.

These people, he said, were prepared to leak government secrets just to serve their own selfish interests.

Yesterday, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Mohd Noor said police were investigating the leakage which it believed was the work of insiders.

It was reported that the minutes on Al Arqam's activities were published in the movement's publication and distributed among its members and supporters.

Asked to comment on the confession by a former Al Arqam leader that he had been given the task by Ashaari to overthrow the

Government but had decided against executing it after losing faith in Ashaari and the movement, Dr Mahathir said:

"I am relieved that it was not carried out."

He said the Government was aware of the fact that anyone who managed to win the minds of groups of people would, sooner or later, have big ambitions such as wanting to take over the running of a country.

On what kind of action would be taken against the movement, he said the Government's main concern was to ensure that the movement's members follow the right teachings of Islam.

"Otherwise, we will take action. But we still have not determined the form of action to be taken."