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Mahathir-Israel

MALAYSIA STILL CONSIDERING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug. 13 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is still considering the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations with Israel although a number of countries, some of them Arab nations, have already done so, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We're not too satisfied with Israel's treatment of the Palestine government and its leader Yasser Arafat," he told reporters at Taman Tasik Perdana after flagging off the special stage of the Petronas Rally of Malaysia 1994.

He said Malaysia felt that Arafat should have been accorded the treatment befitting that for other heads of state but what was happening was Israel still wanted to retain authority in the areas given to him.

"Malaysia hopes Israel will change its attitude with regards to the people's future and sovereignty of the state of Palestine," he added.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said Malaysia would wait and see the Israeli government stand on the peace process in West Asia before making any decision on establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. -- more

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Mahathir-Israel 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

"If Israel shows a sincere attitude to be on good terms with its opponents, Malaysia will consider establishing diplomatic relations with Israel," he added.

He was speaking to reporters after opening the mock session of the United Nations Security Council at the Kompleks Budaya Negara, here.

Dr Fadzil also welcomed the US government statement yesterday that it might ask the UN to lift the arms embargo on the beleaguered Balkan state if the Serb Bosnian terrorists rejected the latest peace plan.

"Although it is already too late, we hope this time when the time comes, the west will act to show the Serb terrorists the stand of the international community (concerning their aggression)," he said.

Opening the mock session, Dr Fadzil said there was a need for the UN structure to be reviewed, particularly its decision-making process, to reflect the current world situation.

The mock session was organised by the Petaling Jaya Rotary Club and United Nations Malaysia Association.

Also present was Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the UN, Tan Sri Razali Ismail. -- Bernama

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