

Israel 'should change policy over Palestinians'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is still studying the possibility of establishing ties with Israel although certain countries have done so.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also said Israel should change its policies vis-a-vis the Palestinian government and its leader Yasser Arafat.

He said Israel, for example, still wanted to retain its authority in areas handed over to the Palestinians.

"We feel Arafat should be accorded the same treatment as that of a head of government," he said after witness-

ing the special stage of the Petronas Rally of Malaysia at Tasik Perdana.

At another function, Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said the Government was adopting a "wait-and-see" attitude before establishing ties with Israel.

He said there were positive signs in the policies of the Israeli government of late, but it was too early to make any conclusions.

"We want to be fully convinced that the peace deals signed by Israel with the PLO are genuine and sincere before we take the first step," he said after opening a "mock" session of the United Nations Security Council on *The Bosnia Crisis*.