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Cabinet to discuss tabling of resolution in US Congress

THE Cabinet will discuss at its weekly meeting today the tabling of a resolution sponsored by US Congressman Robert Wexler calling for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to "apologise or resign" over his reported remarks that a Jewish conspiracy is behind the currency crisis in South-East Asia.

The Umno supreme council, which condemned the resolution at its three-hour meeting last night, agreed to leave it to the Government to decide on the matter.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, speaking to reporters after the meeting, said the 24 US Congressmen may not feel they have gone too far in tabling the resolution. "To us, it is."

Wexler had earlier this month tabled in the US House of Representatives a "strongly worded" resolution criticising Dr Mahathir for his remarks.

The Prime Minister has since clarified that he did not say there was a Jewish conspiracy and that he had only blamed US financier George Soros - who is Jewish - for destroying the Malaysian economy with his speculative attacks on the ringgit and other currencies in the region.

Asked if this is a conspiracy against Malaysia in view of the back-to-back move by the US Government to investigate Petronas' investments in Iran, Dr Mahathir said:

"I cannot say there is a plan against us... there is no clear enough evidence of a conspiracy but they are happening close to one another."

Asked whether Malaysia-US relations is at its lowest point, Dr Mahathir said: "No, not the lowest... we have problems and differences in opinions but this is normal... we are free to have our own stand."

Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the resolution is unacceptable to the council and it has expressed regret over the move initiated by Wexler.

The supreme council also decided at its meeting that Umno will no longer use the word "Baru" in its name. This follows a resolution to drop the word at the Umno General Assembly in September.

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