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Mahathir-Jew

MAHATHIR GLAD MATTER PUT TO REST

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he was glad that the issue of him being allegedly anti-Semitic had been put to rest by the World Jewish Congress.

In welcoming the congress' statement as reported by the newspapers today, the Prime Minister said he had never been anti-Semitic.

"We have been instrumental in allowing the Israeli cricket team to come here and also we brought purposely Israeli students so that they can see that Muslims can live with other people at peace so that this might make them to understand that it is possible to live with the Arabs," he told reporters after meeting Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah at Shangri-La Hotel here today.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on the report that the Congress had accepted that the Prime Minister, who had been criticised for allegedly making controversial statements about Jews, was not anti-Semitic.

According to the report, Malaysia had written a letter to the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner in Geneva to deny that Dr Mahathir was anti-Semitic and that anti-Semitism has never been the policy in Malaysia.

The letter dated Feb 20 from Malaysian ambassador to the High Commission Hamidon Ali was written after he met with the World Jewish Congress representative there Morris Abram.

World Jewish Congress executive director Elan Steinberg praised the letter and said: "This brings the matter to an end as far as we are concerned."

To this, the prime minister said he was happy that the matter had been put to rest.

"Well I'm glad if they have put to rest because I don't see any point in having a quarrel with anybody, I don't want to quarrel with them," said Dr Mahathir. -- Bernama

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