

# Dr M raps Indonesia, Singapore

By SA'ODAH ELIAS

KUALA LUMPUR: Indonesia and Singapore came under attack yesterday from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for meddling in the internal affairs of the country.

The Prime Minister expressed his unhappiness that the two Asean members had failed to respect Malaysia's sensitivity by sending their diplomats to attend the briefing on Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim by Parti Keadilan Nasional presi-

dent Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail last Thursday.

"We never try to get involved in the internal affairs of their countries, so we expect them to accord us the same respect.

"I regret that they see fit to send their representatives to attend the briefing and I hope this will not happen again in future," he told reporters after visiting Angkasapuri.

Diplomats from France, New Zealand, Australia and the United

States were among those who turned up for the briefing by Dr Wan Azizah on the medical condition of her husband.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar on Wednesday confirmed that diplomats from Indonesia and Singapore were among several foreign representatives who attended the closed-door briefing.

Dr Mahathir said although the Government was irked by the foreign diplomats' involvement in the

briefing, there was no immediate plan to call them to explain their actions although it was within the Government's right to do so.

"However, let me remind the people, that if they keep on inviting foreigners to meddle in our internal affairs, don't be surprised if one day they (foreigners) end up controlling the country," he added.

In response to what transpired during his meeting on Tuesday with US ambassador B. Lynn Pas-

coe, Dr Mahathir said:

"Our discussion centered on how to reduce misunderstandings among the two countries and also about enhancing relations with the new US administration.

"At the same time, I reiterated to the ambassador that as an independent country, Malaysia would continue to speak its mind and criticise America if it feels that it has done something wrong so that Malaysia will not be accused of favouritism."