

# Egyptian minister

supports Dr. M  
Star 21 OCT 2003

CAIRO: Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said that accusing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad of anti-Semitism served to "deflect attention from Israeli acts" against the Palestinians.

Dr Mahathir "called for a stop to violence and to study the situation with rationality and objectivity," Maher said after returning from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Malaysia on Sunday.

"What is said about this speech shows bad faith," he said.

"These are lying allegations aimed at protecting Israel and deflecting attention from Israeli acts," he added.

Maher said: "We hope that those who condemned Dr Mahathir's speech lend more attention to the words of the American general ... who demonstrated hostility toward Islam."

Maher was referring to Gen William Boykin, who in June was named US deputy undersecretary of defence for intelligence, and cast the war on terror as a fight of Christianity against Islam.

— AFP (See Jewish Lobby does 'rule' the US – Pages 28 & 29)