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Abdullah: Chin Peng cannot visit Malaysia

Chong Jin Hun

PUTRAJAYA, Sun. - The Government will not allow former Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) secretary-general Chin Peng to visit or settle in Malaysia for the moment as he is still believed to have connections with an organisation promoting violence and terrorism here.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today he had been told by a third party that Chin Peng wanted to return to the country.

"I said we should put off the decision for the moment," he said after opening the fourth World Heart Day at the Botanical Park.

Abdullah, who is Home Minister, was asked to comment on a statement by DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang that Chin Peng, 81, should be allowed to return to Malaysia before Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad steps down on Oct 31.

Chin Peng, whose real name is Ong Boon Hua, led the CPM in a terrorist campaign against the British colonial and Malayan Governments from 1948 to 1960.

Last week, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung said the ministry would leave the matter to Dr Mahathir or Abdullah to decide.