

Waiting for formal request

Govt to act on Danish appeal over controversy once document is received

TS - 13/2/2006

By IZATUN SHARI

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will wait for a formal request from Denmark for help to quell Muslim anger worldwide over the controversial caricatures ridiculing Prophet Muhammad before acting on its appeal.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said a formal request has yet to be forwarded to Wisma Putra.

"If there is a formal request, it will certainly be forwarded to me as soon as possible," he told reporters after launching the Sentul Park Koi Centre here yesterday.

"It has not reached me yet at this point of time.

"I don't have any comment," he said.

He was asked about the statement by Foreign Minister

Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar that he had received a call from his Danish counterpart on Friday asking for Malaysia's cooperation to explain and contain the situation.

Abdullah said he wanted to know the content of the document that would be forwarded by Denmark to Wisma Putra.

In a related development, he said the Internal Security Ministry had contacted the Penang-based *Guangming* daily over its publication of a photo from the AFP news agency in its night edition on Feb 3, which showed a reader with a Western newspaper that carried one of the offensive caricatures.

"I will leave it to the ministry to decide on the matter," said the Prime Minister.

It was reported that *Guang-*

ming had immediately repossessed copies from the streets soon after the Feb 3 edition was published, but a small number of copies that had been sold was not recovered.

On the Iranian request for an emergency meeting of foreign ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to discuss the controversy, Abdullah said: "Let Syed Hamid recommend the matter to me and we will think of the action to be taken."

Syed Hamid, who had also received a call from the Iranian foreign minister on Friday, had asked Iran to get in touch with the OIC secretariat about organising the meeting.

Malaysia currently holds the chair of the OIC.

A thing of beauty, a joy forever



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi scooping up a golden Koi for a closer look at Sentul Park Koi Centre yesterday. This Koi is special to Abdullah because it originally belonged to his late wife Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood. The fish was donated to the centre after her passing. The Prime Minister visits the centre frequently to feed the fish. With him is YTL Corp Bhd managing director Tan Sri Francis Yeoh (in red batik). The park, spread across a 0.6 ha site, has retail and display ponds, a resource centre which includes a library with magazines, books and audio visual materials on the art of keeping Koi, a Japanese restaurant and an infirmary centre that offers services to treat Koi. Abdullah presented prizes to the winners of the Malaysian Open Koi championship – Mohd Hanifah, who won the Prime Minister's Challenge Trophy; Tan Sri Abu Sahid, who received the Agriculture Minister's trophy; and Lee Kok Yong, who won the 37th All Japan Combined Nishikigoi show.