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Govt unveils Dr M's letters to Israeli prime ministers

The Star - 1/3/2012

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government has made public three letters sent by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to prime ministers of Israel which clearly show Malaysia's firm stand against Israel's illegal actions and atrocities against the Palestinians.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman said the three letters were being made public in order to dispel allegations made by certain parties that the Malaysian Government has not been consistent on its stance with regard to Palestine and the struggle of the Palestinian people.

In a statement here yesterday he said the three letters were:

- > From Dr Mahathir to Yitzhak Rabin, dated Dec 21, 1993.
- > From Dr Mahathir to Benjamin Netanyahu, dated March 14, 1997.
- > From Dr Mahathir to Ehud Barak, dated June 8, 1999.

During his visit to Malacca on Feb 24 and Sekinchan two days later, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had stated that the Government was ready to publish several letters from Dr Mahathir to the Israeli prime ministers.

"I wish to state that as a matter of policy, Malaysia has consistently over the years publicly supported the struggle of the Palestinian people for a just and lasting comprehensive solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict and for the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state.

"The contents of these letters reflect Malaysia's strong and principled stance against Israel's illegal actions and atrocities that had undermined the peace process by urging Israel to fulfil its obligations by implementing and respecting all agreements signed between Palestine and Israel," said Anifah.

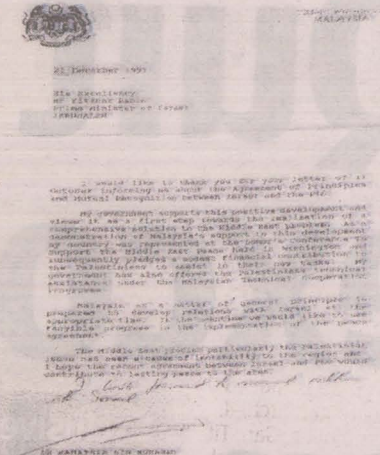
He said this included the Oslo Accords

signed by the late Yasser Arafat on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Shimon Peres of Israel on Sept 13, 1993.

Anifah said that as prime minister then, Dr Mahathir had never expressed support for Israel, including its security in any of these letters.

"Malaysia's readiness to consider establishing relations with Israel is also contingent upon Israel's implementation of all the requirements as stated in the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, including Palestine's submission to become a full member of the UN, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif (East Jerusalem) as its capital. This has been the Malaysian Government's position all these years," he said.

Anifah said the letters also reflected the role of Dr Mahathir as a responsible and respected leader of the international community in trying to facilitate a just and lasting solution to the conflict and to restore the dignity of the Palestinian people. — Bernama



Official letter: Dr Mahathir's letter to Yitzhak Rabin dated Dec 21, 1993. — Bernama