

# Dr M: Together all the way

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**BANGKOK. Sun. — Malaysia is willing to co-operate with Thailand in every way, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said here today.**

He told a Press conference that the Malaysian Government will not allow relations between the two countries to be soured by any quarter.

Existing close relations between the two countries, the Prime Minister said, "are not liked by certain quarters." He named the Communists as one group that would like to see the relations go sour.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also described the Muslim Separatist Movement in Thailand as an internal Thai problem and that it was not for "Malaysia to interfere."

"We were not asked to do anything and Thailand does not want to internationalise the issue," he added.

Thus, Malaysia does not come into the picture at all with regard this problem. The Prime Minister's

On the General Border Committee Agreement, the Prime Minister said the two countries would continue with the same policy and guidelines and would help each other in the fight against the common enemy.

To a question on the alleged stationing of the Voice of Malayan Democracy in South Thailand and the Thai Government's subsequent denial, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said neither he nor Gen Prem raised the

said that he and Gen Prem agreed that the best way to solve problems was for the leaders to meet.

"We can't allow problems to fester until they become insoluble."

He had pointed out to General Prem that the two countries' amicable decision to jointly explore, exploit and share the minerals found in a disputed area in the South China Sea should

titude so that peace will be restored in Kampuchea and in the region," he added.

On Asean, he said the regional grouping had proved that it was viable and "capable of playing a positive role in contributing towards the peace, prosperity and stability in the region."

stand was seen as a re-  
fusal to reports by the  
Press here that Thai-  
land's continued support  
in the fight against the  
Communist Party of  
Malaya was conditional  
on a quid pro quo with  
Malaysia's help in fight-  
ing the Muslim separa-  
tists.

On his two-hour meet-  
ing with his Thai coun-  
terpart Gen Prem  
Tinsulanonda, Datuk Seri  
Dr Mahathir said the  
whole spectrum of Thai-  
Malaysia relations,  
touching on various  
areas of co-operation and  
approaches to national  
and international prob-  
lems, was discussed.

## Dismissed

When asked how he  
perceived China's role in  
South-East Asia, follow-  
ing his talks with Chinese  
Premier Zhao Ziyang,  
Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir  
said that in a zone of  
peace, freedom and neu-  
trality, "China's role  
would be nil — provided  
that the Americans and  
the Russians have no de-  
signs in the area, too!

"But if other people  
are still interested in this  
area, then China feels it  
has some justification to  
be involved here."

issue.

He also dismissed al-  
legations that decisions  
taken at the top in the  
joint border co-operation  
were not implemented at  
the local level. "We didn't  
discuss allegations made  
by other quarters."

On the Vietnamese  
boat people problem, the  
Prime Minister said  
Malaysia was allowing  
them to land for as long  
as they were accepted by  
other countries.

"Of course, if nobody is  
willing to accept them,  
then we have to do some  
rethinking."

Asked to clarify his  
statement in Jakarta  
that Malaysia did not  
consider Vietnam as a  
major threat, Datuk Seri  
Dr Mahathir said what  
he meant was that "we're  
not going to see the Viet-  
namese army marching  
into Malaysia tomorrow."

"We're very clear  
about the danger, but we  
don't think at this mo-  
ment that they're bent on  
conquering Malaysia."

## Unique

Datuk Seri Dr  
Mahathir had earlier

bc "an example of how  
international problems  
should be solved among  
international leaders."

"This is a unique ar-  
rangement. When dis-  
putes such as this create  
conflict between two na-  
tions this is the kind of  
problem-solving ap-  
proach that we'd like to  
maintain," he said.

Later tonight, Datuk  
Seri Dr Mahathir  
Mohamad reiterated that  
peace and stability in this  
region can only be  
achieved if "we are free  
from outside interference  
and big power rivalries."

Speaking at a dinner  
given in his honour by  
Gen Prem, he said the  
Kampuchean situation  
still remained a concern  
to the region.

## Positive

Malaysia will do what-  
ever it could, he said, to  
assist the ad-hoc com-  
mittee formed at the re-  
cent international con-  
ference on Kampuchea in  
New York to find an  
"amicable solution" to  
the problem.

"It is our hope that all  
the parties concerned  
will adopt a positive at-