

# We'll give all we can, says Dr M

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(P) From SHUKOR RAHMAN

TAIF, Thurs. — Malaysia will contribute everything within its means in the "Jihad" (holy struggle) to liberate Jerusalem.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today there was no problem of Malaysia accepting the Mecca declaration as the country has had nothing to do with Israel.

The declaration among other things calls for an Islamic United Front to liberate Jerusalem and other occupied territories from Israel.

Speaking to Malaysian reporters here, he said Malaysia would publicise the Palestine problem and highlight how the Israelis ill-treat the Palestinians.

"We cannot force the other Asian states to take any action against Israel. All we can do is to give the Palestinian side of the story," he said. (Two Asian countries have

diplomatic ties with Israel).

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir accused Israel of "covering up" for illegal Jewish settlements on the occupied West Bank.

"If they (the Israelis) can remove the Palestinians, then why can't they remove their own people who are illegal settlers?" he asked.

The Deputy Prime Minister said Christians were co-operating with Muslims in attempts to liberate Jerusalem as Zionism had also affected them.

He added that it was obvious the Palestinians did not consider the issue a matter of religious intolerance — of Islam not being able to accept Jews.

The Christian co-operation, he added, was sincere as seen from the support given to PLO leader Yasser Arafat and the liberation movement.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the

Archbishop of Jerusalem, Heraklion Capucine, had also sent a message of support to the summit conference.

He said Malaysia had been chosen as a member of the special committee to study the economic problems of the Sahelian countries. Other members of the committee are Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Palestine. Mr Arafat proposed establishment of the committee.

Two million Muslims, he said, were facing starvation and death in ten countries on the edge of the Sahara desert, including Mali and Somalia.

The problem, he said, was caused by extension of the desert areas and a drought since the last seven years.

On the Reagan administration, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the new government was still feeling its way and that its stand on the Middle East was not very clear.

"We have to wait and see if there's any improvement over the previous administration," he said.

In between summit sessions, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir had been busy meeting other leaders. Among them were the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Juber Ahmad Assabah, with whom he discussed

economic co-operation.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the conference was a success as it was rather difficult to get 40 heads of state together.

"Conferences like these are meant to provide the political will. If the conference gets the backing from heads of state, it is easier for others to work on the resolutions. As Kurt Waldheim said at the summit, the political will is there," he said.

The conference ended last night.

The Fourth Islamic Summit Conference will be held in Morocco in 1984 at the invitation of King Hassan, an official communique said today.