

Dr M slams rich nations with poor social sense

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today hit out at advanced countries for their lack of effort in assisting developing countries.

He said advanced countries should be more aware of their social responsibility towards the poorer nations.

Speaking at the opening of the 12th Commonwealth Science Council meeting here today, the Prime Minister said the community of nations had not yet accepted the principle that the rich should help the poor.

"Perhaps, this is because poor nations are in-

capable of threatening the rich, as poor workers are capable through their unions," he said.

"Whatever the reason, certainly the social responsibility of nations is not well developed."

About 40 delegates from 29 countries are attending the one-week meeting.

They will discuss the latest developments in science and technological activities in the Commonwealth since their last meeting in Kenya in 1980 and will identify areas suitable for collaborative action.

They will also study a report, prepared by a special committee, on the organisation and structure

of the Commonwealth Science Council itself.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir called on the participants to be not only scientists but also people with a conscience.

He said the sense of responsibility for the well-being of the world should, where appropriate, override the narrow interests of individual nations.

Training

"The poor countries need help — not hand-outs, but a helping hand — for their development," he said.

He made specific reference to a type of help and assistance develop-

ing nations like Malaysia required in order to progress.

He said there was a need to train a core of scientific and technological personnel. But, he added, the cost of training in advanced countries should not be so high as to be beyond reach.

Developed countries should be more liberal not only in importing products from developing countries but also in the transfer of scientific know-how and technology, he said.

If developing countries were going to buy from the developed countries the equipment and products they need, he said, they must be helped to attain the financial capacity to do so.