

Clear message to Aussies

^P**KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed strong opposition to any Australian resumption of aid to Vietnam as this would be interpreted by Hanoi and the world as an endorsement of the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea.**

The Prime Minister told visiting Australian Foreign

Minister Bill Hayden that any resumption of aid at this juncture would only undermine the efforts of Asean and the world to reach a political solution to the Kampuchean problem.

But once Vietnam has withdrawn from Kampuchea and the Kampuchean are allowed self-determination, then Malaysia would not oppose any aid to Vietnam.

Mr Hayden was on the last leg of his tour of Asean countries to consult them on the Labour Government's campaign pledge to resume aid to Viet-

nam which was cut off by former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser following Hanoi's occupation of Kampuchea in 1979.

Briefing the Press today, Wisma Putra Secretary-General Tan Sri Zakaria Ali said Malaysia disagreed with the Australian view that such aid could wean Vietnam from the Soviet Union.

He said, "We do not like any kind of action by any country that could be interpreted by Vietnam as condoning its present policy. Any resumption of aid will only encourage Vietnam to go on its present course rather than the course Austra-

Ha feels it would take."

Tan Sri Zakaria said Malaysia was not opposed to humanitarian aid to Vietnam, but only if it was given in times of natural calamity of great proportions.

"But what is happening in Vietnam today is that people are suffering, the hospitals are not functioning properly and there is not enough food not because of any calamity, but because Vietnam is spending its resources in Kampuchea.

"It is sending so much food and medical supplies and clothing to maintain 200,000 soldiers in Kampuchea. We can't give humanitarian aid to Vietnam under these circumstances. What would be the meaning of it if all

the money goes to Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea?"

On the Australian six-point proposal for a political settlement to the Kampuchean problem, Tan Sri Zakaria said Malaysia was not against any formula or initiative to peacefully resolve the conflict as long as it is consistent with United Nations resolutions and the declaration of the International Conference on Kampuchea.

But, he added, if the resumption of aid was intended to be part of the Australian initiative, then "we don't see how this could result in any positive trend" towards a political solution.

Tan Sri Zakaria said the whole thrust of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's re-

marks on any Australian resumption of aid showed how concerned Malaysia was that such a move would only be exploited by Vietnam.

The Prime Minister, speaking later at a Press conference after visiting the police headquarters in Bukit Aman, said Australia probably had a guilty conscience about its past involvement in

the war in Vietnam.

"This is a separate issue...we are not talking about what happened in the past but about what is taking place now.

"Vietnam has now invaded Kampuchea and installed its own government.

"We should act, based on what is happening now," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said that "when you act because of

what happened in the past, you are likely to make mistakes".

- As an example, he said that when "you feel guilty about murdering Jews...you are likely to take Arab land to give to Jews and not your own land."

"So that is the kind of thing you may do if you think about your conscience.

"Let's concentrate on what's happening now," he said.