

PM's speech gets strong support

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's keynote address received strong support from delegates at the United Nations-sponsored Asian conference on the Palestinian question beginning here today.

Delegates ranging from Foreign Ministers to that of organisation heads were unanimous in describing the Prime Minister's address as forthright, clear and strong.

The secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Mr Habib Chatti, who described it as a very important document, said: "It could well provide the framework for the conference to work on in drawing up recommendations for the forthcoming international conference in Paris."

The conference is scheduled to be held from Aug 16.

Mr Chatti noted that the speech touched on all the vital aspects of the Palestinian question and hoped this would serve notice to world community.

Meanwhile, Singapore's Foreign Minister S. Dhambalan agreed that time was a

vital factor in seeking a solution to the Palestinian question.

He said the Palestinian question was an explosive issue and a hence a solution must be found as soon as possible.

"The Malaysian Prime Minister has provided the sense of urgency and the clear and strong points given in the speech should give the conference the guidelines," he added.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Prof Mochtar Kusumaatmadja said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's statement also reflected his country's stand on the Palestinian question.

The chairman of the UN committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, Mr Masamba Saree, said the speech reflected Malaysia's commitment and agreed that it contained the important elements to solve the question of Palestinian.

Democratic Action Party (DAP) secretary-general Lim Kit Siang, who attended the opening ceremony, hoped that the conference would lead to a series of actions to solve the Palestinian problem instead of being merely empty rhetoric.