

# PM: Hanoi's incursion a threat to Malaysia

BY NORHAWA YUNUS

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The Vietnamese intrusion into Thailand is not only a threat to that country but also to Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Malaysia considers Thailand a frontline State and regards the threat to Thailand from Vietnam as "real".

Dr Mahathir conveyed this to his Yugoslav counterpart Mrs. Milka Planinc during their 2½ hour discussion at the Prime Minister's office.

Briefing newsmen on the meeting, Foreign Ministry secretary-general

Tan Sri Zainal Abidin Sulong said what worried Dr Mahathir was that Vietnam did not seem to have hesitated at crossing into Thailand as was illustrated by events in the last few days.

Dr Mahathir said Vietnam was trying to prove it could achieve a military solution to the Kampuchean problem in the belief that it was superior in that respect.

Vietnam's repeated intrusion into Thai territory is also proof that Vietnam still persists in disregarding world opinion.

Dr Mahathir expressed the hope that the support for the coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (GDK) would persist and that Belgrade would continue to assist in strengthening world opinion in support of the GDK.

Mrs Planinc, who arrived yesterday, is on a four-day official visit here to reciprocate the visit made by Dr Mahathir to Belgrade in May 1983.

The two leaders also discussed bilateral economic issues, Palestine, disarmament, Antarctica and the Non-Aligned Movement.

They acknowledged the need to expand trade.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia regarded Yugoslavia as a non-traditional trading partner with vast potential.

Mrs Planinc said her country was interested in importing primary commodities and manufactured goods from Malaysia.

On the Palestinian issue, Dr Mahathir underlined the need to give the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) its right to play a central role in any negotiation.

He felt there was a need to influence American public opinion as part of the efforts to bring about a solution to the Palestinian issue.

Tan Sri Zainal said Dr Mahathir felt that PLO leader Yasser Arafat had shown enough flexibility towards achieving a solution to the problem.

However, Dr Mahathir cautioned that this flexibility must not be taken for granted and must be used to expediate efforts to solve the Palestinian problem.

If not, Mr Arafat will lose his credibility as leader.

Tan Sri Zainal Abidin said the two leaders agreed there should be closer South-South co-

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operation and efforts must continue to bring about a North-South dialogue which had so far received poor response from the developed nations.

On Antarctica, both leaders agreed to continue to co-operate and persevere on this issue.

Belgrade supports Malaysia's call that Antarctica be made the heritage of the people of the world and that it be free from exploitation and pollution.

Mrs Planinc also felt the Antarctica issue should be given greater emphasis in the Non-Aligned Movement.

On disarmament, negotiations for which are going on in Geneva, Mrs Planinc stressed that non-aligned countries should voice their respective and collective views as "we too have a say in this".

Dr Mahathir agreed with this view and said Malaysia was glad there was a positive development in this respect between the United States and the Soviet Union.

However, Dr Mahathir expressed his concern over the massive expenditure on the arms race as this had drained resources for economic development.

On the Non-Aligned Movement, Dr Mahathir reiterated Malaysia's continued adherence to the non-aligned principles and the importance of non-interference and respect for each others' sovereignty and integrity.

Mrs Planinc agreed that developing countries must co-operate in order to develop themselves.