

'SURVIVAL OF U.N. MUST BE ASSURED'

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that member countries of the United Nations must ensure that the world body continued to function in the future.

"It has recorded several successes and failures in solving crises in the past 40 years.

"However, despite these successes and failures, a new attitude and view should be embodied especially to overcome future international crises.

"Enough effort must be put in for the United Nations to survive," he said at the 40th anniversary celebrations of the United Nations here.

He regretted that several members of the organisation were not prepared to uphold its Charter and accept its decisions.

"Continuous support is the most important element for the world body to achieve success.

"I am of the opinion that if the world body fails in all its efforts to ensure peace and harmony in the world, then we should blame member countries for their unwillingness to hold on to the United Nations Charter and refusal to accept its decisions," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the United Nations had chosen the suitable theme for its

anniversary which was *For The Better World* and declaring this year as the *International Year of Peace*.

In conjunction with this, he called all member countries to respect the principles contained in the Charter.

"We should now look back at the successes and failures of the world body since its inception 40 years ago as well as think for the future.

"The founder members of the world body aspired to defend the fate of coming generations from disaster and sufferings of another world war.

"The Charter obtained principles which ensure peace, basic rights, justice and perfect laws as well as economic development among member nations which are free from colonialism.

"Although we see disputes and wars, we should be proud that through the United Nations, we have avoided a big split and war such as World War I and II.

He said this was why people should be proud of the role played by the world body.

Dr Mahathir said, however, there were still several distressing factors in the relationship of member nations.

He said they were indirectly divided into rich and poor nations, weak and

strong and in fact, developed and underdeveloped nations.

He added that these divisions have resulted in tensions and disputes.

"We must be aware of the fact that apart from being proud of the technology advancement, development in communication systems and several other fields, we have failed to overcome poverty and starvation which are rampant in several member nations," he added.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia has benefited from the various programmes set up by the United Nations and appreciated this help.

He said Malaysia was also proud to be able to give technical help to several small developing nations through the Malaysia Technical Co-operation Programme.

"We hope the co-operation and aid that Malaysia has given will strengthen the relationships of member nations involved," he added.

Dr Mahathir also expressed Malaysia's appreciation to the United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and staff for their dedication in holding to their responsibilities despite the uneasy political, economy and international social development which made their responsibilities heavier.