

# Support urged for UN to boost its functions

BS 25 OCT 1985

By AZAM ARIS

THE United Nations (UN), the world body formed to prevent the escalating of conflicts between countries, has succeeded in maintaining unity and preventing another world war, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

But despite its achievement, Dr Mahathir stressed that since its inception, the UN has failed to defuse high tensions among some member countries. This was brought about by differences in income level, political strengths and influences, and the division that exists between the developed and developing countries.

"Due to these divisions and indifferences among members, there are bound to be conflicts which will be difficult to overcome," he added.

Officiating the UN 40th Anniversary celebrations at Parliament House in

Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Dr Mahathir said besides feeling proud of the world's achievement in modern technology and advancement in communication networks, countries of the world had failed to overcome the problems of poverty and hunger.

He remarked that the UN charter spells out, among other things, the principles on ensuring peace, fundamental rights and justice and the upholding of the law and economic development.

He urged members to give their full support to enable the UN to carry its functions effectively. He assured UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar that Malaysia will support all UN efforts to bring about mutual benefit to members.

"To overcome world crisis, we must first ensure that the effectiveness of the UN must not be undermined. Continued support is an impor-

tant element for the world body to progress," he said.

"If the UN fails to carry out its objective to help achieve world peace and harmony, then it is not the UN which is to be blamed but rather the countries which do not uphold the charter and which refuse to accept its resolutions."

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had benefited from the technical assistance from the United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) especially in agriculture, forestry and fishery. Currently the UNDP is conducting about 5,000 on-going projects in more than 153 countries and territories.

Earlier, UN representative in Malaysia Bjorn Carlsson said the UN, which started an agreement between governments to prevent the breach of peace, has grown into a vast international machinery.

He added that the economic reconstruction after the last world war would not have been possible had there not been the Bretton Woods agreement which created the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"World trade would not have expanded so tremendously if the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade, and the UN Conference on Trade and Development had not been there," he said.

"Therefore, the UN has become a vital and necessary part of the management of global affairs."