

PM: No other effective
weapon against Pretoria

Sanctions

the only way

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged Commonwealth countries and the international community to seriously consider imposing "comprehensive mandatory" economic sanctions against South Africa.

The Prime Minister's call comes in the wake of the decision by the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group on South Africa (EPG) to abandon its peace initiatives due to the uncompromising attitude of the white minority regime in Pretoria.

In a statement issued through Wisma Putra, Dr Mahathir said the decision was not a "surprise."

He said Malaysia had all along been sceptical about the success of the Commonwealth effort since the Group was established at the last

Commonwealth Summit in Nassau, Bahamas.

"The Commonwealth has now to consider the alternative of imposing comprehensive mandatory economic sanctions in view of the EPG's failure," he added.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia strongly believed that there was no other effective and peaceful weapon other than economic sanctions for coercing the racist regime to demolish the structure of apartheid.

Racist policies

In this context, he reiterated Malaysia's call to the Commonwealth and the international community to seriously consider the alternative of imposing comprehensive mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa.

"The urgency of the international community to bring an end to the bloodshed and death has become more acute than ever before in view of the increasing repressive measures by the min-

ority white regime in Pretoria against the black majority," he said.

Malaysia has been vocal in its call to the international community for economic embargo on South Africa because of its racist policies.

The EPG was formed at the Commonwealth Summit in Nassau, Bahamas, in October last year.

Among the seven eminent persons in the group are ex-Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser of Australia and Archbishop Edward W. Scott.

Malaysia and other Commonwealth countries had taken a hardline approach to the South Africa issue at the summit.

The summit agreed to a compromise known as the Commonwealth Accord in which the 49 Commonwealth countries, including Britain, gave South Africa six months, until April, to start dismantling apartheid.

If no progress was made during this period some of the Commonwealth countries would then consider imposing economic sanctions against South Africa.