

Mahathir: We will stick to non-aligned policy

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By Winslow Wong

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Malaysia will stick to its non-aligned policy and continue to criticise any country including those in the Non-Aligned Movement, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the country would continue with this policy although its unbiased criticisms had "gained much dislike for us."

"We are not aligned with anyone, not even the non-aligned."

"We will criticise and condemn the Non-Aligned Movement or any of its members or groups as much as we would criticise the countries of the Eastern and Western blocs."

"We know that our stand pleases no one. We know some have even tried to make things difficult for us."

"But we will still carry out this policy," he added at a simple ceremony here to celebrate the United Nations' 41st anniversary.

Dr Mahathir said the country bore no ill-will against anyone, not even those "who have overtly and covertly tried to under-

PM: We can't protest

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Government will not protest against Singapore's decision to invite Israeli President Chaim Herzog to visit the republic next month, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We cannot protest as Singapore is an independent country," he said when commenting on calls by Kedah Umno and Abim leaders that Singapore reconsider its decision to invite Mr Herzog.

Kedah Umno Youth vice-chairman Yusoff Abdul Rahman said the invitation was "not in good taste" in the context of the spirit of Asean and the Third World of which Singapore is a member.

Kubang Pasu Umno division head Saad Haji Man also urged Singapore to first sound out to its Asean partners, particularly Malaysia and Indonesia, on any intention to invite Israeli leaders.

mine our stability."

He pledged Malaysia's full support for the United Nations despite its imperfection.

"Our faith in the interdependence of nations remain and with it our support for the symbol of that interdependence — the United Nations."

"We are appreciative of what the UN stands for and the services it had rendered to mankind."

"Imperfect though it may

be, it is still better than a world without the UN," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the international body still had an important role to play although it had been apparently ignored by the superpowers.

The UN, he added, was the only forum where the well-being of small countries would receive "some semblance" of the kind of consideration normally reserved for the rich and pow-

erful nations.

He said no one could deny the benefits that the UN had brought to the people throughout the world.

"Many of the independent nations today, the former colonies of the Euro-American colonial powers, owe their existence to the UN's Committee on Decolonisation."

"Proud and powerful powers were forced to give up what were really their sources of wealth," he added.

On UN's concept of multilateralism, Dr Mahathir said every member country, however poor, could comment and act freely on matters affecting the rest of the world.

He said aid should not be an instrument to influence the client States.

"Unfortunately, some countries, having paid the piper more, demand the right to call the tune."

"This is what the majority of UN members are resisting."

"The veto is enough. There should be no more leverage," he added.

Dr Mahathir said democratic champions should ac-

cept the will of the majority if they really believed in democracy.

He criticised advocates of democracy who claimed that democracy was "no longer a perfect system after all" when they felt that their position in the UN was being threatened by newly-independent nations.

Dr Mahathir later cut a 23kg cake donated by a leading hotel to mark the occasion.

He also received a plaque and a scroll containing the names of all the organisations and individuals who pledged more than 9.5 million minutes of peace from the Million Minutes of Peace Appeal Campaign Committee chairman, Miss P.G. Lim.

The one-month campaign launched on Sept 16 was aimed at encouraging Malaysians to pledge a minute of their time to either meditate, pray or think about world peace.

Among those present were Information Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen and FAO/UNDP regional representative Dr Michel van Hulten.