

'Time to use force against Pretoria'

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today it was time to respond to South Africa's reign of terror against the blacks with force.

This is because the "only thing it will respond to is force".

"If we must meet terror with force, this is the time," he said at the opening of the second South-South conference here. "The lives of black South Africans are as worthy of revenge as the lives of anyone else."

The Prime Minister, however, qualified his call by saying he was not for revenge and killing.

Support

Rather, he was for sanctions against South Africa by countries with sufficient economic clout and the "necessary force". The black South Africans were prepared to endure the pain of such sanctions.

Dr Mahathir, in describing the South African regime as one "that is racist in the extreme", said it was also inhuman.

Referring to excuses from some countries that economic sanctions would be detrimental to the blacks, he said: "In the end we will have to do what we have to do. But how sad that we should prolong the suffering of

★ TURN TO P2, COL 5

Need for Third World to talk about arms

★ FROM PAGE ONE
NST - 6 MAY 1986

the blacks of South Africa."

The Prime Minister was appalled that the South African regime continued to exist. "That it can exist in this day and age is due in part to the support it gets from its sympathisers in the North."

In an apparent reference to the United States, he added: "People who are prepared to take direct military action against a Government for allegedly promoting terrorism, advocate gentle persuasion when dealing with the open terrorism practised by the South African regime."

However, he said, "we do not expect the Pretoria regime to be bombed out of existence, because we do not believe in such a line of action."

On disarmament, he said it was time for Third World countries to discuss arms limitations among themselves.

He pointed to the tremendous rise in Third World arms expenditure. While the Third World only bought \$1.4 billion worth of arms from developed countries in 1964, the bill rose to \$29.4 billion in 1984.

Dr Mahathir, in acknowledging the need for defence capability, however, felt that "mini arms races" with neighbours were unnecessary.