

# Mahathir raps sympathisers of South African regime

BT 9 MAY 1986

By VONG NYAM MING

THE South African government remains the most blatantly racist regime in the history of the world. That it can exist in this day and age is due in part to the support it gets from sympathisers in the North, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

Taking a swipe at some countries, Dr Mahathir said: "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 government.

"We do not expect the Pretoria regime to be bombed out of existence because we do not believe in such a line of action. But when will those with economic clout apply sanction? Or is it that African lives are cheap and that investments in South Africa are too profitable?

"The fact is that we are dealing not with a human regime but with an inhuman regime, a regime that is racist in the extreme. The only thing that it will respond to is force. If we must meet terror with force, this is the time to meet terror with force.

"The lives of black South Africans are as worthy of revenge as the lives of anyone else. But it is not revenge and killing that we are asking for. We are merely asking for sanctions now by those who have the necessary economic clout.

"The black South Africans are prepared to endure the pain of sanctions. They ask for sanctions. Why do we give this excuse that we want to save them from that which they are willing to endure?" he asked the South-South conference yesterday.

African National Con-

gress president Oliver R. Tambo said South Africa's black masses are dying in large numbers in their fight against racist white regime but their victory is inevitable.

"It is a victory we will use to build a truly democratic South Africa, one in which we shall abolish racism once and for all."

He said racism cannot be reformed. Like Nazism, a sister crime against humanity, it must be overthrown and uprooted forcibly, in its totality.

No amount of political manoeuvring or killing of the South African blacks will stop the offensive of the country's masses to destroy racism in South Africa, said Mr Tambo who was delivering a Third World lecture on *Racism, Apartheid and a New World Order* on behalf of 1985 Third World prize winners Nelson and Winnie Mandela at the summit.

He received the prize money of US\$100,000 (about \$260,000) on behalf of the Mandelas from Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The South African couple was honoured for their outstanding contribution to the struggle for justice in South Africa. Mr Mandela has been imprisoned for 23 years serving a life term imposed by the Pretoria regime. The ANC was outlawed after Mr Mandela was tried and found guilty of treason after the killing of 69 black civilians in what is now known as the Sharpeville incident.

Mr Tombo said South Africans were fortunate to have among them outstanding humanists like the Mandelas who hated racism and loved all humanity.

"They are prepared to die in the defence of liberty of all persons, regardless of their colour or race," he said.