

## Cut arms spending, Third World told

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Third World countries, which often urge the big powers to limit their arms race, should themselves stop spending more money on weapons, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We talk often of the need for disarmament . . . but what is our record?"

He said that Third World countries' total expenditure on weapons bought from developed countries had increased from \$1.4 billion in 1964 to \$29.4 billion last year.

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Isn't it about time we talk about arms limitation among ourselves? This guns-before-butter policy is killing us.

"We have to stop this nonsense, and stop enriching the already rich," he said when opening the second South-South Conference here.

Although Dr Mahathir noted that no one disputed the need for defence capability, he questioned the need to have a mini arms race among neighbouring countries.