

# MANY NATIONS NOW REALISE DANGERS: PM

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FROM V.K. CHIN  
VIENNA, Thurs. — Greater public awareness of the drug problem and the attention the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is getting will force the participating governments to follow the guidelines suggested by the UN-sponsored meeting, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said here yesterday.

He said Malaysia would also be prepared to offer itself for any follow-up meetings after the nine-day Vienna meeting which ends on June 26, as it had been doing in the past.

The Prime Minister, who

① *over*  
was elected unopposed as president of the conference yesterday was speaking to Malaysian newsmen covering the conference.

Dr Mahathir said he was proud that Malaysia had been elected to preside over the conference and the large number of delegates was proof that the world now realised the dangers of drug abuse.

He was confident that having realised the dangers, they would cooperate fully to ensure that the problem could be dealt with seriously.

As president, he said he would get the help of the main committee officials

and other conference staff to help prevent the spread of drug abuse.

He hoped the governments would be fully committed to fighting the menace and follow the proposals and recommendations adopted by the conference.

It was also Malaysia's intention to get people to discuss the drug problems and not go off in a tangent or get away from the main issue, he added.

Dr Mahathir said there was also a need to keep in touch with developments after the conference and

he was sure Britain itself would be overseeing this.

With this conference, he said each region would be much more conscious of the need to work together and which was why the discussions and decisions reached should not be taken lightly.

On the inadequate funds to contain a drug trade with a turnover of some US\$300 billion a year, Dr Mahathir said the shortage of money was an indication of the lack of commitment by governments to fight the drug problem.

He was confident that this would change.