

'Our tough anti-dadah stand will benefit all'

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From ZAINON AHMAD
VIENNA, Thurs. — Malaysia's tough stand against dadah abuse and illicit trafficking in dadah has benefited not only its own people but those in the other countries as well, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"After all, much of the dadah that enters Malaysia is on transit to other countries."

He said the success of Malaysia's war against "public enemy number one" should therefore be much looked for-

ward to by its neighbours and those further away.

Just as in the other countries, the success of the war against the menace in Malaysia could only be achieved with international co-operation and it was to promote this further that the country decided to play a leading role in the campaign.

"We need to have this co-operation as it will facilitate access to information on international drug movement and traffickers known to be operat-

ing internationally.

"It would also facilitate the making of extradition arrangements," said the Prime Minister when talking to the Malaysian Press last night.

He became president of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking after Bolivian Foreign Minister Dr Guillermo Bedregal-Gutierrez pulled out from the race following a one-and-a-half hour closed-door meeting of the Latin American delegations before the opening.

Dr Mahathir said even though Malaysia would have received the support of twice the number of countries supporting Bolivia, the consensus achieved presented a united front of more than 120 coun-

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tries in the war against the scourge.

While the conference might be able to achieve consensus on all matters that were discussed, the difficult part was whether "there are follow-ups" after the delegations' return to their respective countries.

He envisaged the usefulness of follow-up meetings — in particular the convening of inter-regional gatherings of experts and policy makers to be assisted by the United Nations, where appropriate — to examine in greater detail every aspect of the problem.

"While we cannot be absolutely certain of the follow-up activities by the countries involved, the fear of public opinion as a result of the publicity given to their participation here should result in some activities in the right direction," he said.