

# PM: Let's not have barriers between friends

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BUDAPEST, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that interdependence among States should no longer be limited to co-operation among friends within regional groupings.

He said in view of the contracting world and the necessity of interdependence, efforts must be made to reach beyond immediate and adjacent regions.

"My visit here is made on the premise that no distance or barriers divide us or stand in the way of our co-operation," he said at a dinner tonight given in his honour by the Hungarian Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr Karoly Grosz.

Dr Mahathir also said that small countries acting in concert could exert a powerful influence over issues of peace, stability and international co-operation.

Being small should not prevent them from insisting that their voices be heard. "We do not believe that giants own this earth and that others have no role to play."

Dr Mahathir said they should express concern over the spiralling arms race.

"While present indications with regard to relations between the United States and the Soviet Union give some reasons to be hopeful, we must continue to urge early and qualitative progress on disarmament and the abatement of the superpower rivalry which looms in various regions."

He said they should also continue to "voice our concern" over the plight of the Palestinian people, the Africans fighting the apartheid regime in South Africa and the fighting in Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

On relations between Malaysia and Hungary, the Prime Minister hoped that it would grow from strength to strength "given the fact that our two countries are desirous of enhancing existing ties."

He said one way to improve trade ties and increase the presently small volume of

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trade between them is "for Hungary to buy directly from Malaysia rather than through indirect channels."

Dr Mahathir said "our co-operation need not begin and end with railway coaches only" but should extend to technical assistance to each other as from one developing country to another.

He said his visit afforded the opportunity for the two countries to examine the future prospects of achieving greater flow of goods between them.

"The holding of another Hungarian Week in Kuala Lumpur in October this year is a positive step" toward making "our people aware of the various opportunities" available for mutually beneficial economic co-operation.

"I hope a Malaysian Week can be held here in Budapest."

The Prime Minister thanked Hungary for the support it gave Malaysia at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (ICDAIT) in Vienna recently.

During his speech, he extended an invitation to Mr Grosz and his wife to visit Malaysia.

This morning at the Kossuth Lajos Square, the Prime Minister was given a ceremonial welcome by the Government of Hungary. Among those present were Mr Grosz and some members of his Cabinet.

After the Negara-Ku and the Himnusz were played by the Budapest Garisson Regiment band, Dr Mahathir inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by men and officers of the same regiment.

He then walked up the red carpeted steps to the adjacent Parliament House.

There he and his delegation held talks with the Hungarians headed by Mr Grosz.

In the afternoon, Dr Mahathir laid wreaths at the Heroes' Square before visiting the Ganz-Mavag factory.