

# PM: End 'mad' flow of funds for weapons

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SUPERPOWERS must stop pumping their resources into their endless and "mad" arms race and channel them instead into production of useful and cheaper goods which could spread wealth throughout the world.

Datuk Seri Qr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday asked the superpowers to end the arms race and help return sanity to the business world.

He underlined the sad state of affairs now, where man was spending resources on arms technology which could otherwise be spent to rebuild the economic system.

"What is fundamentally wrong is that technology has outstripped human capabilities to make use or take advantage of these technologies without disturbing human environment.

"Technologically the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) is entirely possible. But to attain this possibility all resources of a State has to be diverted to these weapons which ideally should not be used if they are to serve their purpose," he said.

## Fantastic

Because of this, the United States runs up fantastic deficits in its budget, thus distorting not only its own industrial development but also that of the entire world.

The Soviet Union, whose people are poor, would now divert its resources into weapons manufacturing to keep up with the US.

"With so much money diverted to the endless search and manufacture of increasingly more effective and more costly weapons, all other areas must be starved for money," he said.

He added that if there was going to be an economic recovery, the mad race to design and manufacture endless improved arms using ever more sophisticated and costly technology must stop.

"Money must go back to the production of useful and cheaper necessities or even luxury items, the production of which will consume raw materials, create jobs and spread wealth throughout the world," he said.

Dr Mahathir also reminded major economic powers that it was their responsibility to rebuild the world economy because small and poor nations could not do so.

The small and poor nations have no influence on the world market; so the responsibility for restoring order in the international economy lies with the big nations, he said.

Dr Mahathir also underscored the damage recent economic events had done to world confidence in the economic system, but expressed confidence, nevertheless, that "cool heads and strong political leadership" among big powers could still restore the equilibrium.