

PM: We back any move for Kampuchean peace

(P) KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Malaysia sees last month's Jakarta informal meeting as a breakthrough in efforts to establish Kampuchea as an independent and sovereign nation, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister gave an assurance to visiting Kampuchean leader Son Sann that Malaysia backed any move for a peaceful end to the Kampuchean conflict.

Foreign Ministry deputy secretary-general Datuk Abdul Majid Mohamed told reporters that Dr Mahathir also told Mr Son Sann that the working group formed at the Jakarta meeting should not delay in its task to seek a political solution to the matter.

Mr Son Sann, Prime Minister of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, and a four-man delegation arrived here yesterday for a three-day visit to brief Malaysian leaders on the Jakarta meeting.

The two Prime Ministers met at Dr Mahathir's office

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this morning. Mr Son Sann also met Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar.

Datuk Abdul Majid said Dr Mahathir hoped that the three Kampuchean resistance factions — Son Sann's nationalists, the Sihanoukists and the Khmer Rouge — and the Hanoi-backed regime in Phnom Penh would "hasten developments" through the working group to resolve their problems.

The other members of the group are the six Asean nations, Vietnam and Laos.

The group's priorities are to see the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea by 1990 and cessation of foreign interference, aid to the Kampuchean resistance forces and the non-return of the Pol Pot regime responsible for the 1975-1978 massacres in Kampuchea.

Datuk Abdul Majid said the task of the working group would hinge on the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. Hanoi has pledged to withdraw all its estimated 100,000 troops from Kampuchea by 1990.

He said the Asean members regarded Prince Norodom Sihanouk as a key player in the issue and would like him to return to the coalition Government in Kampuchea.

Mr Son Sann told a Press conference later that he would meet with the Chinese authorities to request them to advise the Khmer Rouge to change so that they can be acceptable to the other parties involved, Bernama reports.

"I'm not for the restoration of the Khmer Rouge regime in Kampuchea but at the moment we have to fight the Vietnamese and ask them to leave," he said.

He said the Kampuchean people knew who the Khmer Rouge were and added that the Khmer Rouge was "a Cambodian problem which we have to solve among ourselves."

Of the three parties making up the coalition — the Sihanoukists, KPNLF and the Khmer Rouge — the last is the strongest militarily, with an estimated 50,000 well-armed and well-trained guerillas.