

# Dr M CALLS FOR 'MORE ACTION, LESS TALK IN NAM

By V.K. Chin

BELGRADE, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) should be more action-oriented instead of just talking about issues.

The Prime Minister admitted, however, that this was easier said than done as the movement was a large international organisation.

"But we hope to be able to air our views in a forum which is very important in that it represents the majority of the countries in the world, countries whose fate has been ignored by the rich," he

told Malaysian newsmen covering the movement's ninth summit.

"We hope of course that when we speak here we will be heard not only by NAM members but by the rest of the world. For us this is a very important international forum," he added.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived here yesterday, said Malaysia had always been interested in NAM and considered it more important than the Commonwealth.

"It is true that it has a disparate membership and does not lend itself to concerted action easily. But nonetheless there are

many common grounds and common problems which if nothing else we are able to voice them and to adopt a common front wherever necessary," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that after 28 years, an assessment had to be made on the role of NAM and the relevance of this movement and how the members could play a better role.

On human rights, he was concerned by attempts to force through new concepts on human rights and democracy when most countries were still concerned about the basic right to live, free-

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dom from want and instability.

He said: "We are concerned with the delegation of the United Nations role to the background in favour of exclusive groups in which the poor nations have no participation.

"For example, the Group of Seven which is very powerful although its members are in the minority and yet their decisions affect the rest of the world, in particular with regard to the economic well-being of the poor countries."

The summit begins tomorrow and ends on Thursday.