

Bid to initiate resumption of North-South talks

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The G-15 summit has decided to initiate the resumption of the North-South dialogue in a bid to iron out existing differences between developed and developing countries.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the leaders wanted the dialogue to be meaningful and G-15 would work towards achieving this aim.

"While recognising the importance of South-South dialogue, it is also essential to talk to the North.

"We may approach some friendly leaders of the G-7, such as Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and French President Francois Mitterrand, to initiate this dialogue.

"We need to understand each others' position before we can tackle any prob-

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The G-15 will meet annually, with its next meeting scheduled to be held in Caracas, Venezuela at a date to be fixed later.

Dr Mahathir said the summit decided to set up a steering committee comprising the Foreign Ministers of Malaysia, Senegal and Venezuela to decide on the size of the permanent staff to serve the committee.

"The committee will keep the link among the G-15 members alive during intervals between the yearly summits."

Asked whether the leaders had decided on the future of South Commission chairman Dr Julius Nyerere as the Commission would be disbanded by the end of the year, Dr Mahathir said Dr Nyerere would still be active in ensuring the publication of

the Commission's report.

"His term of office is not over yet. We still have quite some time to decide on this," he said at a joint-Press conference.

He added that the three-day meeting was too short to discuss a broad spectrum of issues confronting the South.

However, he said, it took note of various major problems, such as environment.

He said the 15 member countries had decided to step up their efforts to share information on advancement in technology.

He also said the summit expressed its concern that some industrialised countries continued to heavily subsidise farm production and agricultural exports which deprived developing countries of fair and competitive market opportunities.