

# Time to review sanctions against South Africa: PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Malaysia will review whether economic sanctions against South Africa should be lifted following President F.W. de Klerk's announcement of apartheid reforms.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad feels that a review is timely after Mr De Klerk's moves to scrap the country's apartheid laws.

"We have to respond to things that are being done by President De Klerk and it is obvious that he has made a lot of changes," the Prime Minister told newsmen today after opening a World Bank symposium.

"Not to recognise changes, to stick doggedly to a stand simply because that was our stand is wrong," he said.

Dr Mahathir, however, also wanted to find out whether enough had been carried out by Mr De

Klerk.

On Friday, Mr De Klerk announced plans to repeal remaining laws upholding the system that denies majority blacks the vote and regulates daily life according to colour.

He had also announced plans to scrap segregation of housing and land ownership and abandon the classification of people by race.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had always reviewed every stand it took according to the situation.

(The Prime Minister was the chairman of the 1989 Commonwealth summit here that agreed to continued sanctions against South Africa.)

Asked whether the Commonwealth should review its stand, he said Malaysia would give its views and it was up to the Commonwealth to decide what to do next.

On the Gulf war, Dr Ma-

hathir said many people did not understand Malaysia's support for the use of force to liberate Kuwait from Iraq.

"The (United Nation) resolution is clear. It requires Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait but Iraq should not be destroyed. That is our stand," he said.

Asked whether Malaysia was in a position similar to the other Muslim countries where they had been pressured by their people to change their stand, Dr Mahathir said this was not so.

"We are not in that position because we have not sent troops. The Muslim countries concerned have sent troops and other aid. We have not sent anything," he said.

He reiterated that Malaysia wanted the Gulf crisis to be resolved through discussions and peaceful means.