

Pairin wants coalition Government PM: PBS seeks pact with Usno

By Jeffrey Ramayah

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The Parti Bersatu Sabah has expressed its desire to form a coalition Government with Usno, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Sabah Chief Minister and PBS president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan met the Prime Minister last Saturday to discuss the possibility but a decision on this will only be made after the matter has been discussed by the Barisan Nasional.

The reply was conveyed by the Prime Minister to Datuk Seri Pairin during the meeting two days ago.

Speaking to reporters after opening the World Bank's development strategy symposium here, Dr Mahathir said: "The situation is different because the PBS is in the Opposition and wants to form a Government with a BN party.

"The PBS was also a BN component but it chose to join the Opposition before the recent general election," he added.

At Saturday's meeting, Dr Mahathir pointed out to the PBS delegation that the proposal might be complicated following the decision by the majority of Usno members to join Umno.

Dr Mahathir will be in Sabah on Feb

20 to inaugurate the formation of Umno there.

"I pointed out to Datuk Seri Pairin that the proposal to form a coalition Government would mean that PBS will have to co-operate with Umno.

"The PBS leaders did not state that they wanted to rejoin the BN but only said they wanted to form a coalition Government with Usno in Sabah."

In the Sabah State Assembly, the PBS has 36 seats and Usno 12. The PBS has an additional six nominated members.

On a proposal by the Umno general assembly that non-military compulsory national service be introduced in the country, Dr Mahathir said the Government had yet to make a decision.

On South African President F.W. de Klerk's announcement to push reforms to build a united post-apartheid South Africa, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia welcomed the announcement.

"We welcome any move to wipe out apartheid and we might have to review our sanctions against South Africa. But we have to study the effects of Mr de Klerk's move first," he said.

On the Gulf War, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's stand that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait and that Iraq should not be destroyed in the process was unchanged.

"We will continue to support efforts to get Iraq out of Kuwait but will not sup-

Support for plan

KOTA KINABALU, Mon. — Usno is ready to form a coalition Government with the PBS, party senior vice-president Datu Amirkahar Tun Mustapha said.

Usno will fix an appointment to see BN chairman and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to get further details on the matter.

"Usno will abide by whatever advice the Prime Minister gives, but I should say we are prepared to form a coalition Government."

port any move to destroy Iraq," he said.

Diplomatic moves should be continued to find a solution to the crisis, he added.

"If we say diplomatic efforts have failed, then we are accepting violence as a solution to international problems, which we cannot accept," he said.

He said Malaysia was not under pressure to change its stand on United Nations resolution 678.

"Malaysia is different from some other Muslim countries which are supporting Iraq by sending food supplies, medicines and other forms of aid.

"Some even want to send their armies. What other Muslim countries want to do is their business. As far as Malaysia is concerned, we would like this to be resolved through discussions and peaceful means," he said.