

Umno leaders support govt stand

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Umno leaders at state and division levels have unanimously supported the Government's stand and actions on the Gulf war.

More than 900 pledged their support to the Barisan Nasional government following a 1½-hour briefing by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The briefing was to clear any confusion as a result of Malaysia's stand and recent developments in the Gulf.

Malaysia's stand in supporting Resolution 678, which allows the use of force to evict Iraq from Kuwait, and its unhappiness over the progress of the war in the Gulf had created some confusion.

A division head said Dr Mahathir had, in explaining the government stand, stated that Iraq must leave Kuwait if the Gulf crisis was to be resolved.

"Dr Mahathir said that if Iraq refused to leave Kuwait, it would be destroyed and the people of

Iraq will suffer," the division head, who did not want to be named, said.

"He also clarified that Malaysia was not calling for a review of Resolution 678 as it stood by it. But Malaysia is concerned with the progress of the war and wants the United States and its allies to strictly follow the resolution, which does not call for the systematic destruction of Iraq," the division head added.

A Youth division head said party members sup-

ported the Government because they were satisfied with the way Malaysia was handling the crisis.

Dr Mahathir also briefed division leaders on the Cabinet reshuffle, developments in Sabah and Kelantan, the party's follow-up action pertaining to the resolution on constitutional monarchy at the last general assembly and the party's efforts to retrieve its assets now in the hands of the Official Assignee.