

# Malaysia happy with US suspending ground action

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By Robert Goh

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed happiness that the US had suspended its ground action in the Gulf.

The ceasefire would save many lives, he said in reply to questions at a Press conference held in connection with the inaugural meeting of the Malaysian Business Council.

He said Malaysia had been calling on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait after it invaded the emirate last Aug 2.

He said many innocent people had been victims of the war.

"I hope people have learnt the lesson of this war."

Earlier, he said he was relieved that Kuwait had been freed.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said Malaysia welcomed US President George Bush's an-

nouncement of the suspension of all offensive combat operations in the Gulf.

He said in a statement that Malaysia also welcomed Iraq's declaration of its acceptance of all 12 United Nations Security Council resolutions on the Iraq-Kuwait situation.

"Malaysia commends Iraq's earlier decision to withdraw from Kuwait in response to the Soviet Union's peace proposals.

"Given Iraq's acceptance, the council should move immediately to arrange for a ceasefire and the cessation of hostilities.

"Governments of the allied forces must co-operate with the council to bring about an immediate end to hostilities now that Kuwait has been liberated."

He added that Malaysia shared in the happiness of the people of Kuwait over the liberation of their country and looked forward to the re-establishment of their legitimate

Government.

"With the accomplishment of the task in fulfilment of the UN resolution 678, all efforts must now be directed to bringing an urgent cessation of hostilities to minimise further destruction and loss of lives."

Datuk Abu Hassan said Malaysia called on the Arab states to begin the process of reconciliation among themselves and to agree on the necessary security arrangements to prevent the occurrence of a similar crisis in the future.

"Malaysia believes it is now incumbent upon the Security Council to work towards a framework for a political settlement of the Gulf crisis and the broader issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinian problem.

"Malaysia strongly urges all parties concerned, including Iraq, to extend their fullest co-operation to the Security Council in this urgent task to restore international

peace and security in the region."

Datuk Abu Hassan made the statement after signing, on Malaysia's behalf, a new economic, scientific and technical co-operation agreement with his visiting Romanian counterpart Adrian Nastase at Wisma Putra.

Asked by reporters when Malaysia would re-open its embassies in Kuwait and Iraq, he said this would be done once the situation had returned to normal and facilities made available.

The same ambassadors — Mr N. Nadarajah (Iraq) and Wan Hussein Wan Mustapha (Kuwait) — would then be sent back with their staff, he said.

Asked whether Malaysia would provide any assistance in the reconstruction of Kuwait and Iraq, he said:

"We hope members of the private sector would take part in this and make the necessary preparations to supply construction and other materials there."