

PM: Policy on boat people stays

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Malaysia will stick to its policy of turning back Vietnamese refugees who attempt to land on Malaysian soil, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Describing the Malay-

sian policy as "not very unlike the policy of the United States", the Prime Minister said Malaysia could not afford to accept any more new refugees.

"For example the United States does not allow the people of Haiti to land on its

shores neither does it permit Mexicans to illegally cross the Rio Grande.

"We feel that if the United States can have such a policy we also have the right to turn away foreigners from our shores," he said after launching the

Malaysian Business Council.

Dr Mahathir was responding to questions from reporters on whether Malaysia would change its policy on Vietnamese refugees.

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