

# PM relieved now that Gulf war is over

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed relief today that the United States had suspended its military action against Iraq.

He said many lives could have been saved if Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had abided by all the UN Security Council resolutions much earlier.

"We had urged Iraq right from

the start to leave Kuwait but it refused, resulting in Malaysia supporting the UN resolution to use force to make Iraq withdraw.

"We know that if they don't, they will be bashed to pieces," he told newsmen after chairing the Malaysian Business Council.

Unfortunately, he said, Mr Saddam did not heed the warning but "gave in a little bit at a time" but never enough to stop the war.

"I'm glad he has finally decided to comply with all the UN resolutions. I hope the people have learnt their lesson about territorial ambition," he said.

Dr Mahathir also hoped that Israel would not try to profit from the situation.

Earlier, after launching the council, he said while Mr Saddam was safe, the Iraqi people were suffering as a result of the war.

He was sad that Iraq had decided to accept all the UN resolutions after the loss of so many lives.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said a sense of relief had prevailed now that the war had ended.

MCA Youth chief Datuk Chan Kong Choy said the UN must now look into the task of rebuilding both Iraq and Kuwait.