

PM: KEEP SANCTIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Malaysia will press for economic and other sanctions to be continued against South Africa until more concrete actions are taken to dismantle apartheid, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia believed that the lifting of sanctions now would undermine the progress made so far.

He said the international community must not lose sight of the fact that apartheid was still very much in existence.

"We should remain vigilant and continue to urge all parties in South Africa, in particular the Pretoria regime, to move forward on genuine negotiations for a non-racial and democratic South Africa," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this in a statement in conjunction with the meeting of senior officials of the AFRICA (Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid) Fund beginning tomorrow (*see Page 2*).

He said the meeting was taking place at a most important juncture in the history of Southern Africa.

"Indeed, we may well be at a watershed development in South Africa. The atmosphere there is better than it has been in decades," he said.

He said the new developments were brought about by

continuous pressure from the international community.

But he asked whether this process would lead to negotiations that would transform South Africa into a truly non-racial democracy.

Dr Mahathir said any action by the international community to lift sanctions should be conditional on actual progress being achieved towards the dismantling of apartheid.

"Promises to dismantle apartheid, by themselves, do not merit the lifting of sanctions," he added.

On the fund, Dr Mahathir said it remained valid in the wake of the current global situation.

Dr Mahathir urged the international community to contribute to it so that the frontline states could prepare for nation-building in a post-apartheid era.

Wisma Putra has received several messages from heads of government in conjunction with the meeting.

They included Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, Namibia President Sam Nujoma, Zambian president Dr Kenneth Kaunda, Malawi President H. Kamuzu Banda, Seychelles President France Rene, and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Atef Sedki.

Commonwealth secretary-general Emeka Anyaoku said the Commonwealth had set up an expert group to study the human resource needs of a post-apartheid South Africa.