

# PLAN FOR CHILDREN TO STRESS AIDS CONTROL

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — The National Plan of Action to map out strategies to ensure the development of children will stress on ways to contain the spread of AIDS and child abuse.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the ultimate aim of the plan was to ensure a healthy and conducive environment for the future survival, protection and development of children.

"We have to take precautions to contain diseases like AIDS, which is already widespread in some countries and threatening the future

generation," the Prime Minister said.

He said the National Plan of Action, to be formulated by the end of the year, would also include programmes to improve children's health.

He said there were now several health programmes being implemented by the Government that had been acknowledged internationally.

"For example the immunisation programme for children is said to be better than the one in the United States," he told reporters here today.

The formulation of the

National Plan of Action was in pursuant to a declaration of the United Nations-sponsored World Summit for Survival, Protection and Development of Children in New York last September.

Every country, affirming their support to the declaration, was to formulate a national plan of action for the well-being of children.

Dr Mahathir had earlier signed a declaration signifying Malaysia's commitment towards it in a colourful ceremony today.

The New York declaration includes a 10-point programme which would

serve as a guideline and spells out targets for countries formulating their national plan of action.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had achieved some of the targets in the 10-point programme issued during the New York summit.

"Some of the guidelines in the 10-point programme have also been included in the Sixth Malaysia Plan and Second Outline Perspective Plan," he said.

Today's event was watched by a group of children led by the 1989 child hero Akhmal Halim

Ramli, 14.

Later a representative of the children, Juliana Ghazali Bujang, 11, rendered a recitation in gratitude to the contributions of the Prime Minister and his wife towards the welfare of the children.

Meanwhile at the first meeting to formulate the National Plan of Action chaired by Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, it was unanimously agreed that a Charter for the Welfare of Children should be pursued.

"The National Plan of Action will be included in the charter," she told reporters after the meeting.