

# Little point to attend Earth Summit: PM

BT 17 AUG 1991

BY SHARIF HARON  
THERE is little point for Malaysia to attend the Earth Summit in Brazil next year if the country has already been branded as a culprit, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"It will then not be a conference to solve environmental problems," he told reporters after opening the 18th annual general meeting of the Malaysian College of General Practitioners in Subang Jaya yesterday.

He was asked to comment on a recent report published in the US that Malaysia has been chosen as the first target by environmentalists in their global assault to block timber exports from developing countries.

## MEDICAL CARE BOOST: p16

The environmentalists were reported to have planned a series of campaigns as a run-up to the Earth Summit next June, during which an international ecology treaty will be signed to govern all trade and economic activities with a view to "saving Mother Earth" from man's destructive industrial activities.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said if the conference is going to be used to suppress small nations, then the small countries might as well have their own conference to enlighten the world on the actual situation.

"If we were to go there just to become targets of abuse, there is no point in us attending," he added.

He said it is well known that the environment is polluted by the industrialised countries, a fact that the environmentalists choose to ignore. He described the negative campaigns against Malaysia as "politically motivated."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he believes that the environmental groups are well organised, have good facilities and funded by certain economic lobbyists.

Their activities are aimed at disrupting the nation's stability and economy so that "we will be poor and have to beg from them," he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also hit out at the environmentalists for their efforts to "save" the Penans in Sarawak from modern civilisation. He said these efforts are intended to put the Penans in a position similar to that of the Australian aborigines and the American Indians in the US, two groups who are left out of the mainstream of development in their

# PM on Earth Summit

BT 17 AUG 1991

## FROM PAGE ONE

own countries.

The Prime Minister said: "They wish to see the Penans displayed as exhibits in museums so that they can come and gawk."

He pointed out that the Penans issue was only an excuse to suppress a small nation like Malaysia. "We are told that their governments are fair, only these people (involved in the campaigns) are not. But the effect on us is the same."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he sees a need to respond to all the false allegations levelled at Malaysia and set the records straight, "but if they want to launch a 'war' against us, what can we do?"

He said the Government wishes to see the Penans enjoy the same benefits as other Malaysians.