

# PM: We will assess aim of Summit

NST 20 NOV 1991

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KUALALUMPUR, Tues. Malaysia will attend the preparatory meeting of the "Earth Summit" in New York early next year to assess the objective and direction of the summit.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Malaysia would base its decision on whether to attend the summit on the outcome of the preparatory meeting.

He said Malaysia's reluctance to participate in the summit stemmed from its concern that the summit would focus its attention and blame on developing countries for all the environmental problems in the world.

The United Nations Con-

ference on Environment and Development, also known as the "Earth Summit", is scheduled to be held in Brazil in June next year.

"If the countries attending the summit want to find positive ways to curb pollution and share the burden of handling worldwide pollution problems, we will consider attending the summit and contributing our ideas.

"If the summit is solely aimed at pointing an accusing finger at countries which export tropical timber and to lay the burden of environmental problems squarely on the shoulders of poor nations, then we are not interested," he said.

Dr Mahathir, speaking to newsmen after addressing a forum organised by the United Nations Malaysia

Association, said Malaysia would also attend a meeting among developing countries before the Earth Summit to ascertain their views.

At the forum, he touched on his recent address at the United Nations, Malaysia's stand on the "Earth Summit" and other issues.

Among those who attended the forum were association president Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, deputy president Tun Omar Yoke Lin Ong, members of the diplomatic corps and corporate executives.

On the forthcoming G-15 meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, Dr Mahathir said the issues that would be raised included relations between North-South countries and problems faced by Asian countries.