

# Dr M: We'll attend

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KOTABARU, Thurs. Malaysia will attend the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) meeting in Jakarta next month but will not recognise Serbia as a successor State to the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister, who will attend the meeting from Sept 1 to 6, expressed disappointment with the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) for turning a deaf ear to the atrocities of Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina

"We are quite disappointed with the attitude of the Islamic countries for ignoring the acts of atrocities against and massacre of Muslims in Bosnia and for not giving any assistance when even the non-Muslims are willing to help," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked by reporters to comment on Malaysia's stand if Serbia represents Yugoslavia at the NAM meeting.

He had earlier chaired the Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee meeting and a meeting with the State Umno Youth members at the State Umno building

here. Dr Mahathir is the State Umno liaison chief.

He said Malaysia could only urge the Islamic countries to take some kind of action to help the Bosnians.

"Malaysia has also provided financial allocation to the Bosnians based on our capability but the Islamic countries should play a greater role in assisting the Bosnians," he said.

The Cabinet, yesterday, decided to sever diplomatic relations with the Government in Belgrade with immediate effect in response to the continued atrocities by the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Malaysia is believed to be

the first country to do so. The embassy staff in Kuala Lumpur has been given three days to leave the country.

Asked what would happen to the people from Belgrade in Malaysia following this decision, Dr Mahathir said staff of the embassy would have to leave while the status of their business people and those involved in any kind of contracts here would be determined later.

"We have to look into the legal requirement? to determine whether they will be allowed to continue with their business," Dr Mahathir said.

However, he said other or

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dinary people could remain here as long as they had valid travel documents.

He added it did not mean that the people could not be in the country although "we have severed our relations with the country."

Meanwhile in KUALA LUMPUR, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia did not recognise Serbia and Montenegro as the successor State of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and therefore the Government did not recognise its membership in the NAM.

"It has no status to attend the NAM meeting in Jakarta this month, although it

calls itself Yugoslavia, since it is no longer a member," he said.

He said the Government in Belgrade has to apply for fresh membership in NAM, the United Nations, Group of 15 and other international organisations.

He said Malaysia's stand on the issue was supported by many other countries.

He said the Government's protest against Belgrade's chairmanship of NAM had resulted in Indonesia taking over the operations of the NAM Co-ordinating Bureau in New York from the Belgrade Government.

"We have been informed that Indonesia has taken

over the role of leading NAM through its meeting in Jakarta and onwards," he said.

He also urged the members of the public to check with Wisma Putra's "Task force on contributions for Bosnia-Herzegovina" which co-ordinates and monitors collection of donations for the victims of aggression in the war-torn country.

He said this was to ensure that the public was not cheated by unscrupulous people who may pretend to collect donations for the Bosnian cause and do not hand them over to the relevant fund.