

PM'S CALL TO PROTECT BOSNIA

Rich nations urged to act against Serbs

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MALAYSIA urged developed countries which strongly defend democracy and human rights yesterday to act immediately to protect the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"They must not wait until human rights are only for the dead ...," he said, adding it will be very sad indeed if the developed countries do not take action against the Serbs.

He was speaking to newsmen after visiting Perwaja Steel Sdn Bhd's rolling mill project in Gurun, Kedah. Dr Mahathir was asked to comment whether the Government will support Iran's call to all Islamic countries to discuss military assistance to Bosnian Muslims to fight Serbian atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ayatollah Ahmad Janati, a representative of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said on Thursday that Islamic countries can save Bosnian Muslims by supplying them arms to fight the Serbs.

Dr Mahathir said the United Nations had imposed sanctions on Yugoslavia and therefore arms cannot be



□ MAHATHIR ... urged immediate action

supplied. "Despite the sanctions, it is unfortunate that the Serbs have sufficient arms, unlike the people of Bosnia," he added.

The Prime Minister said he will support developed countries which defend democracy and human rights acting against the Serbs to protect the people of Bosnia.

On reports that the Bosnian Serbs' aggression was to fight Muslim conspiracy for world domination, Dr Ma-

hathir said he could not see how Muslims could dominate any place in the world at a time when they were fighting among themselves.

"They (Muslims) are never in a position of strength, they are not on good terms among themselves," he added.

Malaysia's strong opposition to the Serbian atrocities was clear when the Government decided last Wednesday to sever diplomatic ties with Belgrade.

In Kuala Lumpur, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba said the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) should immediately convene a special meeting to discuss developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"It does not matter whether the talks will be successful or not ... what's important is we want to know what is happening there," he told reporters after launching the Kuala Lumpur Canoe Association's English Channel Crossing Kayak Expedition.

Meanwhile, Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said the Government's decision to cut ties with Yugoslavia is a mistake as it has closed the channel to provide aid to the Bosnian Muslims.

Malaysia could have just

downgraded its embassy in Belgrade to keep the diplomatic channel open to keep abreast of the situation there and provide assistance to the Bosnians, he told reporters after attending the opening of the 38th PAS general assembly in Kota Baru.

His statement runs counter to the stand taken by PAS and the DAP which had supported Malaysia's decision to close the mission.

PAS deputy president Hadi Awang said yesterday the Government should not stop just at severing ties with Yugoslavia but should also play an important role in getting the support of the OIC and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Bernamea reports: Yugoslav nationals working for Energoprojekt, an engineering firm operating in Malaysia, have not been told how they can go about getting consular assistance now that the Yugoslavian mission has closed.

An Energoprojekt spokeswoman said the company, which ranks as one of the world's largest construction firms, has a sizable number of Yugoslav nationals working on projects in the country, including the multi-million ringgit Shah Alam sports complex.

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