

Razaleigh's view wrong, says Dr Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah was wrong in stating that Malaysia had made a mistake in severing diplomatic ties with the Government in Belgrade.

"Razaleigh probably does not know foreign affairs," the Prime Minister said when asked to comment on Razaleigh's statement that the move was not carefully considered by the Malaysian Government.

"We have only cut off diplomatic relations with the Government in Belgrade. This is only limited to Serbia. It does not cover Bosnia, Croatia or Slovenia which are independent states with whom we do not have diplomatic ties."

Speaking to reporters after opening the 39th MCA general assembly, he said to have a diplomatic mission just to act as a watchdog or observation post as suggest-

ed by Razaleigh was pointless as "we are observing the developments daily on TV. What more is there to observe?"

Razaleigh had said on Thursday that the severance of diplomatic links would make it difficult for Malaysia to extend assistance directly to Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Such aid would probably have to go through a third country like Austria, he had said.

Dr Mahathir said the decision to cut off diplomatic ties with Belgrade did not affect individual Serbians in Malaysia as long as they possessed valid travel papers.

"Some of them here have come from Bosnia and Croatia. We do not have diplomatic relations with the two states. We will have to consider the cases of individual Bosnians and Croatians here as they still possess Yugoslavian passports."