

PM urges Security Council to meet over Bosnia

23 AUG 1992

LANGKAWI: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday he had written to members of the United Nations' Security Council requesting that they convene a meeting immediately to discuss the atrocities in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"I do not know whether they will act or not," he told reporters at the airport here before returning to Kuala Lumpur. He had been in Langkawi since Wednesday.

The Prime Minister said if the Security Council did not want to take a decision on the issue, then the UN General Assembly should hold a special session.

He also said Malaysia would support any call by the Organisation of Islamic Conference or a UN special session, and would attend such a meeting.

Malaysia's permanent representative to the UN, Tan Sri Razali Ismail, is reported to have said last Thursday that up to 60 countries were for a special session of the UN General Assembly to discuss the atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Razali could not ascertain whether the special session would be held before Aug 26 when a meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina organised by the European Community would be held in London.

Dr Mahathir said all countries must be prepared to implement any decision made by the UN.

He said he hoped that there would not be a repeat of what happened when the UN wanted to take action against the aggression in South Korea by North Korea and China.

At that time, he said, the Western countries bypassed the Security Council because they knew if the matter was raised at the council, the then Soviet Union would veto it.

Therefore, they bypassed the council and raised the matter at the UN General Assembly for a decision, he added.

Dr Mahathir criticised big countries which he said were only good at talking about their right to intervene in the domestic affairs of countries which did not respect human rights or were undemocratic.

"It is very clear that there has been violation of human rights by Serbia and what the Serbs are doing is not very democratic.

"If the Western nations say that they have the right, this is the time for them to show that right...not against small nations," he added.

He said that the actions of small countries against which the West had acted did not even amount to the atrocities by Serbia.

Meanwhile, all 10 Yugoslav embassy staff and their family members left yesterday for Bangkok enroute to Belgrade following the closure of the mission here.

Malaysia severed diplomatic relations with the dismembered Yugoslavia last week in protest against its role in fueling the atrocities by Serbs against Muslims in Bosnia. — Bernama