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MALAYSIA WILL ATTEND NAM SUMMIT, SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir-NAM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will attend the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Jakarta next week even though it does not agree to Yugoslavia's presence, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Malaysia would abide by the majority decision on the question of Yugoslavia's presence at the summit even though it no longer recognised that country, he added.

+We are still studying whether to propose to the conference to reject Yugoslavia,+ Dr Mahathir said when responding to reporters' queries after opening the 30th Women's Day gathering at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

Indonesia, host of the 10th NAM summit, has said it had invited Yugoslavia.

Two weeks ago, Malaysia severed diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia in protest against Serb atrocities which it said had the tacit support of the Belgrade government. -- more

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Mahathir-NAM 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia did not agree to Yugoslavia's presence because it considered that the country no longer existed as such.

Yugoslavia's presence at the summit could be rejected because there had been a precedent at the Havana NAM summit in 1979 when Cambodia was barred because of difficulty in ascertaining the legitimate representative of the country, he added.

Elaborating on his statement yesterday that users of the Straits of Melaka pay for maintaining the waterway, he said Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia should hold talks on a common approach to the issue.

He said yesterday that it was unfair to expect Malaysia to maintain the straits without financial help from countries or shipping companies which used the waterway.

More than 200 ships pass through the straits daily. -- Bernama