

Dr Mahathir: We'll be at NAM talks

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. Malaysia will attend the 10th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Jakarta next week even if the Belgrade Government is represented, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said if it was the wishes of the majority that they be represented at the summit, Malaysia would still go because "we abide by the wishes of the majority".

Dr Mahathir said this 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, said recently it had invited the Belgrade Government.

Dr Mahathir, who will lead the Malaysian delegation, said Malaysia did not agree to the Belgrade Government's presence because it considered the country no longer existed.

Two weeks ago, Malaysia severed diplomatic relations with the Belgrade Government in protest against

Serb atrocities which it said had the tacit support of the Belgrade Government.

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

He said yesterday it was unfair to expect Malaysia to maintain the strait without financial help from countries or shipping companies using the waterway.