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CITIZENS OF SUPERPOWERS ALSO SUPPORT DEMOCRATISATION OF UN

Mahathir-UN

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JAKARTA, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is convinced the democratisation of the United Nations can come about although it may be difficult, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Even citizens of countries having veto power in the world body want this change in the UN and did not back their governments' opposition to it, he said.

+It looks a difficult task at this time but we must campaign, even in countries which have the veto power,+ he told Malaysian reporters before returning to Kuala Lumpur after attending the 10th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) here.

Last week, UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who had also attended the summit, said bringing about such a change was near impossible because of the opposition from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council which held the veto power - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

+Our focus is on "near impossible" which means it is "possible",+ said Dr Mahathir who had urged the UN to change the composition of the Security Council which he felt was meaningless. -- more

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Mahathir-UN 2 (last) Jakarta

Leaders of NAM, at their summit here, called for a restructuring and democratisation of the UN, particularly a review of the veto power of the permanent members of the Security Council.

Dr Mahathir said he was convinced that the superpowers would inevitably have to bow to world opinion for a change.

+They cannot maintain their position if they want the support of other countries for their actions in certain situations,+ he said.

He said that a US congressman who met him recently also wanted a change in the UN for world peace.

+I told him to continue with his effort because the world will not be peaceful so long as there is imbalance between the powerful and weak nations,+ he said.

+It looks like we have to influence the people of the US, Britain and other countries on this question because it is not necessarily so that they support their governments,+ he said. -- Bernama