

Second airline needed as MAS is

SHAH ALAM, Wed. — There is a need for a second airline because the country's national airline — Malaysia Airlines — is expanding so rapidly and has become "overstretched", Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said today.

"We need a second airline to international destinations that MAS does not fly to but which have poten-

tial," he told a Press conference after officiating at the construction of the Proton casting plant at the Hicom-Glenmarie Industrial Park here.

To a question, he said the second airline could be based on Pelangi Air (the country's regional airline) airline companies or a consortium.

Dr Mahathir said the proposed second airline would

not compete with MAS, but "complement it", stressing that the Government would not have a stake in it.

"We want the private sector to do business, we regulate the business."

On the special committee to curb inflation which he heads, Dr Mahathir said the Government was aiming for a zero inflation rate while ensuring that the country's growth rate continues to in-

crease.

"We will be a developed nation with a low inflation rate," he said.

He was asked on what the committee was targeting considering the fact that the country was enjoying a low inflation rate.

Dr Mahathir said there were many countries which had a high growth rate as well as a high rate of inflation but stressed that Ma-

20 MAY 1993

overstretched, says Dr Mahathir

laysia would try to keep its inflation rate low.

On the sending of troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Prime Minister said Malaysia was willing to "fight and be at war" there if it was necessary.

"What we are not satisfied with is the United Nations Security Council whose permanent members have the veto power. They will prevent us from helping the

Bosnians," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the council's permanent members were not just unwilling to help the Bosnians, they are preventing others from helping, and preventing the Bosnians themselves from getting arms to defend themselves.

On the stand by the Kelantan Government not to make amendments to the State constitution to allow

the Public Services Commission to appoint the top three civil servants without referring to the Sultan, Dr Mahathir said if the law required that Kelantan did so, then the Government would have to pressure the State to do so.

Dr Mahathir was asked this in view of the fact that on Monday, the Negri Sembilan State Assembly passed a Bill on this and

that several states had indicated that they were in the process of making the amendments.

On the growing tension in Cambodia, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had "never for a moment" believed that the Khmer Rouge would cooperate in giving up power.

He said for the situation to be eased, the United Nations had to deal with it in an appropriate manner.