

support for PLO'S stand in peace talks

29 JUL 1993

By NIZAM ISA



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia supports the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) stand to reject terms proposed during the Middle East peace talks as they were not in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia also called for a more justified and fair agreement to ensure the negotiations were a success.

He said the present terms were unfair as they failed to determine the future of Jerusalem and excluded the PLO's autonomy in its territory.

"We accept and support the PLO's decision because we believe that any solution towards the Middle East problem should include autonomy for PLO's territory and determine the future of Jerusalem," he told reporters after a two-hour meeting with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday.

Arafat briefed Dr Mahathir on the situation in Palestine and the reasons behind Palestinians' rejection of the Middle East peace talks.

Dr Mahathir said the PLO was willing to continue with the talks provided all the terms proposed by Israel and the United States were done in accordance with UN resolutions.

"If they accept the present terms, the Palestinians will gain nothing," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the terms only provided the Palestinians with the right to administer certain institutions which they were doing at the moment.

He said Malaysia had also given its assurance that it would continue to support the organisation's struggle.

"We are sad, and we sympathise with them because, although there were a lot of Palestinians killed, they continue to fight for their rights," he added.

Arafat arrived yesterday for a three-day working visit at the invitation of the Prime Minister.

The chairman also met Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at Carcosa Seri Negara yesterday.