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Malaysia wants all parties to be involved in talks, PM tells Arafat

# support for PLO stand on peace

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By Farush Khan  
and G. Danapal

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat arrived here today for a three-day working visit and was immediately assured of Malaysia's continued support for its struggle.

He was told that Malaysia wanted all parties involved in the negotiations for peace between Palestine and Israel to find ways so that the peace process was fair to the Palestinians.

Malaysia's support for its struggle was conveyed by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Arafat during their 90-minute closed-door meeting at the Prime Minister's office.

Dr Mahathir said that during their meeting, the PLO leader told him the organisation could not agree to the terms proposed in the recent negotiations because they were not in accordance with the United Nations resolutions.

The UN resolutions,

among other things, call for the total withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories.

"The PLO could not agree to the proposals because matters concerning Jerusalem were not mentioned at all," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia accepted and supported the PLO stand as it was logical that any settlement must be preceded by fair negotiations and agreement by which the Palestinians could regain their autonomy.

He said in their negotiations, the parties involved must also determine the future of Jerusalem.

"Even if the Palestinians do not get back Jerusalem today, it must be specified what is in store for it," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was sympathetic with the fate of the Palestinians and expressed his grief over the many Palestinians killed in their struggle during the *intifada* (uprising).

Malaysia has assured the Palestinians that it will con-

tinue to support their struggle," he added.

Asked whether the PLO was willing to continue with the negotiations, he said it was prepared to do so but not on the terms proposed by Israel and the United States which were not in accordance with the UN resolutions.

"PLO is prepared to accept the proposals only if they are in line with the UN resolutions," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that during the meeting Arafat also showed him a copy of the outcome of the past discussions. It indicated that the discussions were not based on the UN resolutions. The proposals would not give anything to the Palestinians.

He said the Palestinians were given the right to administer institutions within the occupied territories.

"But this they are already doing. All educational institutions are being administered by the Palestinians,"

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# PM criticises Israeli attacks on Palestinians

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Dr Mahathir added.

Asked to comment on the series of attacks by Israel on the Palestinians in Lebanon in the past three days, the Prime Minister said it was Israel's excuse to use its weapons.

"This should not have happened. Israel is not able to use machineguns and aeroplanes in the *intifada* as it takes place in the urban areas. In Lebanon, they can do it," he said.

Arafat was accompanied by a six-member delegation, including his political adviser Hani Al Hassan and national affairs adviser Sakher Habash. Both are members of the PLO central committee.

The others are his economic affairs adviser Mohammad Rashid and the head of the PLO office in Japan, Baker Abdel Munim. Also present was PLO ambassador Ahmad al Farra.

Arafat also held separate meetings with Deputy

Prime Minister Ghafar Baba and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at Carcosa Seri Negara.

Tomorrow Arafat will have an audience with the Yang diPertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah.

In the afternoon he will deliver a talk at the National Institute of Public Administration in Bukit Kiara. The talk is organised by the institute in collaboration with the Institute of Strategic and International Studies.

He will also attend a dinner hosted by Dr Mahathir at Seri Perdana.

Arafat last met Dr Mahathir at the 10th Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Jakarta last year.

His last trip to Malaysia was in March 1999 for a three-day official visit—the first in his capacity as President of the symbolic Palestine State which was declared by the Palestinian National Council in Algiers in November 1988.

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