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Mahathir-Bosnia

MALAYSIA CAN NO LONGER BEAR TO SEE BOSNIANS SUFFER

(EMBARGO: For release after 10 tonight)

from Ali Mamat

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Aug. 2<sup>92</sup> (Bernama) -- Malaysia is giving serious attention to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina as it can no longer bear to see the Muslims there subjected to oppression and terrorism by the Serbs, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight. ⑧ My overseas

To this end, Malaysia was making efforts together with other countries to help the Muslims in Bosnia defend their lives and rights, he said at a state banquet hosted in his honour by Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei at Istana Nurul Iman here.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived here yesterday for a three-day official visit, said Malaysia's serious concern was in line with its stand to contribute towards world peace and stability and help the unfortunate.

So far, Malaysia had taken an active part in several United Nations-sponsored peace-keeping operations such as those in Cambodia and Somalia, he added. -- more

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Dr Mahathir regretted that the cry for help by the Muslims in Bosnia to defend themselves went unheeded by the countries of Europe.

In this matter, the Malaysian Government would welcome any support or assistance from the Brunei Government to save Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said.

On Malaysia-Brunei relations, the Prime Minister hoped that with the agreement to set up a Joint Commission between the two countries bilateral co-operation could be expanded and any problems arising could be resolved peacefully and in the spirit of brotherhood.

"Such understanding and co-operation is not only important as a foundation for peace and stability in this small region but also as a positive contribution towards peace and stability in the whole of Southeast Asia," he said.

He added that close relations between Malaysia and Brunei would further enhance the glory of the Malay race and its rich culture which would have to be nurtured so that it had a place and respect in international culture.

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He was happy that Malaysia and Brunei co-operated closely and had been of mutual help in ASEAN and in international fora such as the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

"This co-operation has been born of a common perception between Malaysia and Brunei on important issues involving regional and global peace, stability and prosperity," he said.

He expressed his appreciation to the Sultan of Brunei for his country's support for the various initiatives taken by Malaysia such as the formation of the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) which now had the support of the West Asian countries.

He also stressed the vital importance of Asean member states forging wide-ranging co-operation among themselves so that Asean would remain strong and united in facing pressures and challenges from any source.

He said: "Welcoming co-operation and the support of other countries, Asean should be the main moving force and spearhead any effort pertaining to the economy, peace and stability of Southeast Asia.

"Asean's capabilities has been amply demonstrated from its successes in resolving the Cambodian issue, agreement to set up the Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA) in 15 years and the agreement to set up the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC). -- Bernama

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