

UN must accept conditions first, says PM

Director of News
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia would send its troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina once the United Nations accepts its conditions for taking part in the peacekeeping operations.

The conditions include adequate air cover, the supply of equipment and non-withdrawal of troops already in the UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia, the Prime Minister said.

Speaking at a Press conference at the end of his official visit here, Dr Mahathir said: "We will send our troops to Bosnia but we want to know the conditions.

"We don't want to send our troops to be slaughtered in Bosnia. If they withdraw and put us in the frontline against the Serbs, we believe this is not the meaning of helping the Bosnians ... (this is) torturing us for talking a lot."

Dr Mahathir said unless the conditions were met, Malaysia was not prepared to send its troops to be slaughtered.

The Prime Minister was asked to comment on Press reports yesterday that the UN had agreed to allow troops from three Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) countries — Malaysia, Pakistan and Jordan — to send their troops to join the UN forces in war-torn Bosnia.

The OIC had earlier offered about 20,000 troops from member nations to serve in Bosnia. Of this, Malaysia had expressed its willingness to send 1,500 soldiers.